

JOHN HENRY WINKLE

Baker and Soda Water Maker

By Eric McGuire

The German Confederation, or German Union, was a loose confederation of 39 Germanic states that was established in 1815. One of those states was Hesse-Kassel. Its boundaries have been preserved as the current state of Hesse (named *Hessen* in the German language) within the Republic of Germany. Frankfurt is its largest city and the capital is Wiesbaden. The subject of this sketch, Johann Heinrich Winkle, was born there on March 10, 1821. Likely of Jewish descent and probably a believer of Reform Judaism, he arrived in New York City in 1840 where he spent three years then left for Pensacola, Florida, where he continued in the bakery business and kept a hotel. He remained there until 1849 except for two years spent in Fort Gaines, Early County, Georgia, where he also had a bakery.⁽¹⁾ He preferred to use his Americanized middle name – thus Henry Winkle.

One biographical sketch notes that after keeping a bakery and grocery store in Pensacola, Florida, Winkle left for Panama in October 1849 where he stayed about three months.⁽²⁾ He crossed the Isthmus and reportedly arrived in San Francisco in March 1850.⁽³⁾ It is not clear whether he took the obligatory trip to the gold fields but he likely did. If so, Winkle spent little time there for he advertised with Robert Skinner, as a partner in the California Bakery beginning in August 1850, also selling ground coffee.

SKINNER & WINKLE,
CALIFORNIA BAKERY,
2d street, between K and L.
WE wish to call the attention of Families and Hotels, to our establishment, where they can be supplied every day with fresh-baked Bread, Cakes and Pies.
Also—Fresh roasted and Ground Coffee, a very superior article. Parties supplied with cakes of every description, at the shortest notice. Stores wanting Coffee roasted can have it done on reasonable terms and short notice. [a17 3m]

Henry Winkle's first venture in California was with Robert Skinner when they opened the California Bakery in Sacramento. Their advertisement first appeared in the Sacramento Daily Union,



Shortly after the great Sacramento fire the Alta California newspaper of San Francisco delineated the extensive burned area of Sacramento. Winkle's soda works was very near the origin of the fire and was burned out.

The partnership was terminated in November of 1850.⁽⁴⁾ Winkle continued in the bakery business alone, and, as well as a coffee saloon he also speculated in real estate and then decided to enter the soda water business in the Spring of 1852. On November 2nd of that year a fire started in the millinery shop of Madame Lanos on J Street near Fourth. It soon engulfed the city with great devastation, ultimately destroying 1,766 buildings and displacing 7,000 people. A total of 55 blocks burned and Henry Winkle's soda water business was one of the casualties.

Within weeks he set about constructing two brick buildings on K Street between First and Second.⁽⁵⁾ These structures were not the location of his soda works since that was at the foot of J Street at the levy of the Sacramento River. Cash strapped, evidently Winkle was able to continue his soda water business for a few more months until Sacramento was hit with another natural disaster. New Year's Eve witnessed the beginning of a two-day rainstorm that brought a crippling flood to the city. At this point Winkle's resources were severely diminished. He may have continued bottling soda water for a few more months but the

final blow was his failure to pay back a note for \$1,200 to Hermann Ebberson upon his demand. As a result the sheriff seized Winkle's property and sold his soda water business "at the Factory of said Winkle, on the bank of the river above J street in Sacramento City" on October 14, 1853. His movable goods that were sold consisted of:

**"One table with bottling machinery attached.
Three soda fountains with pipes attached.
One rotary pump and pipe.
Three large tin cans.
5,000 soda bottles, more or less"**⁽⁶⁾

His real property in Sacramento was sold at a later sale. Winkle was forced to declare bankruptcy and in January 1854 he left Sacramento for San Francisco. He soon entered the baking business, and as Winkle & Co., endeared himself with the Jewish community and landed an important contract. Winkle's newspaper advertisement noted:

PASSOVER BREAD FOR THE HEBREW EASTER DAYS
— The undersigned having made a contract with the Congregation to bake all the bread for them give

notice that it will be made under the superintendence of the Committee. Orders from the country promptly filled.

**H. WINKLE & CO.
R. PEISER.**

Cor. Battery and Sacramento streets.

Martin |
Levy | - Committee
Goldsmith | ⁽⁷⁾

A successive short partnership with Charles Geiger, styled as Hamburg Bakery, didn't work out, and the two split after a few months with Geiger keeping the Hamburg name.⁽⁸⁾ Winkle continued on in the baking business under his own name at the corner of Vallejo and Battery Streets in San Francisco.

Lime based building materials were in short supply on the West Coast and the demand by its rapid development created a strong market, even for high priced imports. The lime deposits near Santa Cruz and Mt. Diablo helped satisfy

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT. 567

PIONEER BENICIA HYDRAULIC CEMENT CO.

**OFFICE, No. 4 ARMORY HALL,
SAN FRANCISCO.**

Superintendent, - GEO. D. NAGLE
Secretary, - - - HENRY WINKLE

WE, the undersigned, BUILDERS AND ARCHITECTS OF SAN FRANCISCO, do hereby certify that the Cement manufactured by Messrs. NAGLE, WINKLE & Co., of the PIONEER BENICIA HYDRAULIC CEMENT COMPANY, is fully equal, if not superior, to any Cement ever before used in this city, and that, to our own knowledge, it sets immediately under water:

D. JORDAN, CALEB HYATT, Architect, THOS. J. JOHNSTON, Architect, E. KENITZER, Architect, M. F. BUTLER, Architect, HOFFMAN & MOOSER, Architects, W. S. WATSON, Chief Engineer Cal. Northern R. R. CHAS. W. SANGER, Assistant Eng. Cal. Northern R. R. J. COCHRAN,	GEO. COFFMAN, Contractor & Builder O. H. RAND, late Master Mason Marine Island Navy Yard, SAMUEL ADAMS, Importer, A. H. HOUSTON, Contractor, A. BURNETT & LEE, JOHN McFADDIN, SAMUEL HEVNER, WM. PATTEN, Architect, W. P. C. STEBBINS, B. F. HORTON, Architect.
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Nagle and Winkle purchased a full page advertisement in the 1861 San Francisco Directory to advertise their new cement company.

when the Pioneer Benicia Hydraulic Cement Company was incorporated on September 5th. (Nagle is not mentioned in the incorporation). Nagle was soon followed by Winkle in liquidating their assets in the company which continued to flourish and set a standard in the cement industry for many years.

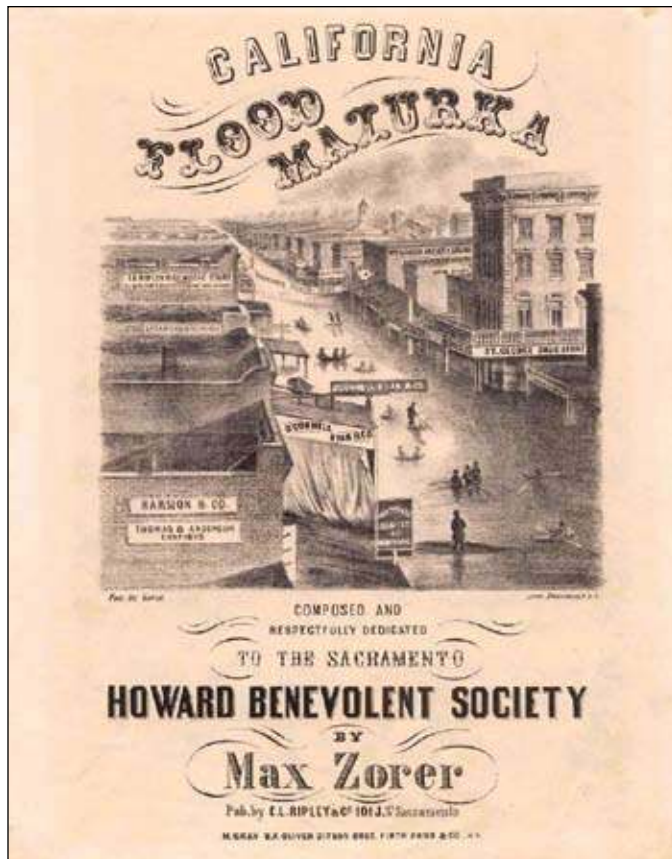
Henry was soon joined by his siblings in the bakery business, with Adam Winkle, and Henry Winkle, Jr. both arriving in San Francisco, from Germany, in the early 1860s.⁽⁹⁾

WINKLE'S BAKERY,
Corner of Battery and Vallejo Streets.
GENUINE GERMAN BROWN BREAD, MILK BREAD AND ROLLS,
Are delivered FRESH EVERY MORNING to any part of the City.
Orders for Balls, Weddings, Parties, Etc., will be promptly attended to.
H. WINKLE.

Henry Winkle advertised religiously in the San Francisco Business Directory throughout the 1860s.

Henry's brother, William Winkle, also moved to San Francisco about the same time as Henry, Jr., and Adam, but initially he chose to open a shooting gallery. He didn't join the family baking business until 1885, after the death of brother, Adam Winkle, on April 23rd of that year. With continued success Henry Winkle became entrenched in the San Francisco business scene. He married Emma Steudeman in April 1864 and became increasingly interested in politics. Henry was known as an uncompromising Democrat and held a seat on the Democratic Nominating Committee in San Francisco for many years. In 1869 he made a bid for Board of Supervisors of San Francisco and was elected to a 2-1/2 year term.

In the same year (1869) Henry Winkle began to cultivate his interest in viticulture and to shift his occupational desires. He purchased a sizable estate in Sonoma County, California, next to Jacob Gundlach and Julius Dresel, two pioneer wine growers of the area. By 1871 Henry Winkle had transferred ownership in the bakery to his brother, Adam, and Henry focused his attention on growing wine grapes. In 1874 Winkle accepted two partners into his business, George Claussenius and Louis Adler. Claussenius was a successful insurance and passenger ticket agent in San Francisco who was apparently looking for a lifestyle change. Adler was a true California pioneer, having arrived in



The final blow for Henry Winkle's soda water company in Sacramento was the great flood of January 1853, which crippled his finances. This music sheet was written for a good cause, but shows some even tried to cash in on the fledgling city's notoriety as a flood prone area.

local demand for mortar, however, no cement was made in California until Henry Winkle and local pioneer contractor, George D. Nagle, developed a high quality calcium carbonate deposit near the town of Benicia, California, in 1858.


How Winkle took part in this departure from his mainstay bakery business is a mystery, however, it proved his business resilience and flexibility in seeking opportunities in a fast paced and quickly developing region that California presented in its formative years - just as he saw possibilities in his failed soda water company even though luck was not with him in that venture. The portland cement business was good and the partner's capital was increased in 1862

C. P. VAN SCHAAK & CO., Nos. 712, 714 and 716, Kearny Street.

THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION,*



JUDICIAL ELECTION,

FIRST WEDNESDAY
THIRD WEDNESDAY

OF
IN

SEPTEMBER.
OCTOBER.

MAYOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY—THOMAS H. SELBY, *ex officio* President of the Board of Supervisors. Term expires December, 1871. Salary, \$3,000 per annum.
 CLERK—WILLIAM V. WELLS, appointed by the Mayor. Salary, \$1,800 per annum.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—1869-70.

Term of office two years—one-half elected annually. Terms expire first Monday in December. Weekly meetings each Monday evening. Quarterly meetings first Monday in January, April, July, and October. Special meetings at the discretion of the President.

President—THOMAS H. SELBY (Term expires December, 1871). Salary, \$3,000 per annum.
 Attorney City and County—JOSEPH M. NOUGES (Term expires December, 1870). Salary, \$5,000 per annum.
 Clerk—JOHN A. RUSSELL, appointed by the Board. Salary, \$2,400 per annum.
 Deputy Clerk—THOMAS H. RYNOLODS. Salary, \$1,500 per annum.
 Sergeant at Arms—Vacant. Salary, \$600 per annum.

MEMBERS.

First Ward—HENRY WINKLE, Second " JOHN HARROLD, Third " EDWARD FLAHERTY, Fourth " TIMOTHY MCCARTHY, Fifth " MONROE ASHBURY, Sixth " ALEXANDER BADLAM,	Seventh Ward—RICHARD RING, Eighth " CHARLES E. STORY, Ninth " A. J. SHRAEDER, Tenth " JAMES ADAMS, Eleventh " P. H. CANAVAN, Twelfth " J. W. KELLY.
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BOARD OF EDUCATION—1869-70.

Term of office two years—one-half elected annually. Terms expire first Monday in December. Meetings second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

President—H. A. COBB (Term expires first Monday in December, 1869). No compensation.
 Secretary—George Beanson. Salary \$1,800 per annum.
 Clerk—Richard Ott. Salary \$125 per month.
 Superintendent of Public Schools—JAMES DENMAN (Term expires December, 1869). Salary, \$1,000 per annum.

* The State Election takes place biennially, on the first Wednesday of September except the year of the Presidential Election, when it takes place on the same day. A special election for Justices of the Supreme Court, District Judges, County Judges, and all other judicial officers, required by law, and a State Superintendent of Public Instruction, takes place on the third Wednesday in October, 1871, and every two years thereafter. For Act of the Legislature regulating the election and terms of Municipal Officers, see Consolidation Act, Section 7, page 749.

E. H. JONES & CO., 118 Sanson Street, French Corsets, New Styles.
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For pure old California Wines, go to M. S. WHITING & CO., 219 Bush St. See next leaf.

Henry Winkle's entrance into politics is reflected in this page from the 1869 San Francisco Directory which lists him as the Board of Supervisor's member from the First Ward.

San Francisco (then called Yerba Buena) in 1846 and settled in Sonoma in 1848, prior to the gold rush. Among other things Adler was a wine grape grower as well. He married Winkle's sister, Martha, in Napa, California, on November 26, 1874, thereby becoming Henry Winkle's brother-in-law.

SAN FRANCISCO DIRECTORY.

HENRY WINKLE & CO.

SONOMA



WINES and BRANDIES

OWN VINTAGE,

S. E. corner Sacramento and Leidesdorff Streets,
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Henry Winkle's advertisement that appeared in the 1875 San Francisco Directory.

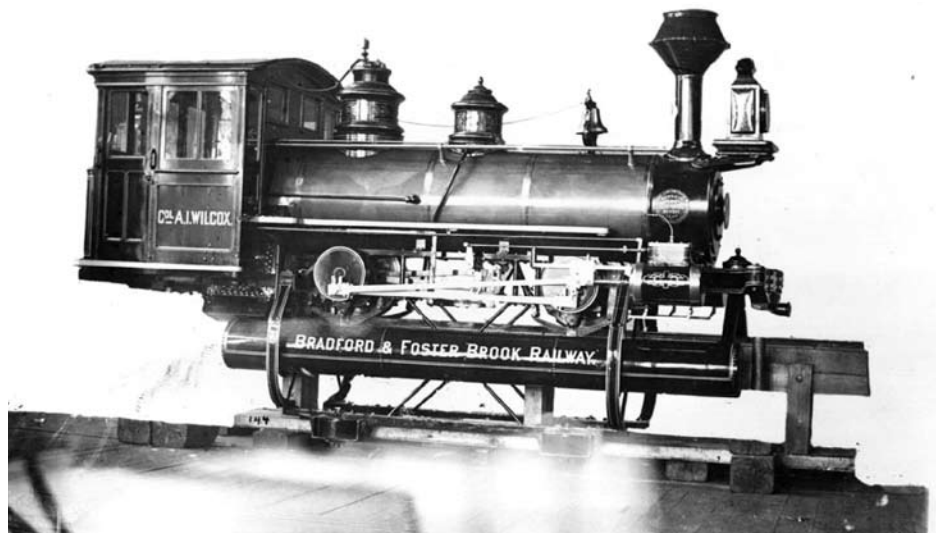
The new business of Henry Winkle & Co. was expanded to include a full range of domestic wines and liquors and presented an excellent outlet for the sale of Winkle and Adler's own vintages. Winkle continued with his liquor business in San Francisco for a few years and in 1876 made a permanent move to his vineyards in Sonoma. The following year Winkle sold his San Francisco liquor business to George Claussenius and Winkle devoted his time to viticulture. Adler also operated a saloon in Sonoma and went back to running that establishment and continued with his grape growing as well. Louis Adler died in Sonoma May 20, 1896⁽¹⁰⁾ and Martha Winkle Adler died in Sonoma on August 31, 1900.⁽¹¹⁾

Meanwhile Henry Winkle, Jr., and William Winkle (Henry Winkle's brother's) continued to successfully operated the bakery at the old stand in San Francisco, on the corner of Vallejo and Battery Streets. Operations continued

until the death of Henry, Jr. on October 21, 1897. William then purchased all interest in the business from his brother's estate and continued baking until William's own death on July 14, 1898. Thus ended the nearly fifty year old baking dynasty begun by John Henry Winkle in Sacramento in 1850 – except for the hiatus punctuated by the unsuccessful and short lived soda water business from early 1852 to the middle of 1853.

Emmor Crew of Steubenville, Ohio, was granted Patent No. 128,597 on July 2, 1872, for what was called an "Improvement in Railways". Quickly termed a prismoidal railroad the nature of the improvement was really embodied in its cost of construction. This monorail train was designed around and balanced on a single pyramidal track. Much easier to build than a double track railway it was especially adapted for urban use and caused a brief sensation throughout the country. After its successful construction in Opelika, Alabama, a number of communities proposed its construction, which was much cheaper than even a standard narrow gauge railroad. By 1874, Joseph S. Kohn, of San Francisco was a leading proponent in the West.

Kohn petitioned the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to operate a prismoidal rail line in San Francisco, but repeated attempts were thwarted due to opposition from influential residents such as W.C. Ralston and William Sharon.⁽¹²⁾ Not to be defeated he convinced eight others to build a prismoidal railroad in the Sonoma Valley which would run the approximately six miles from the town of Sonoma to a deep water port



A single track prismoidal engine similar to the type that was used on the Sonoma Valley Prismoidal Railroad.



Along with Henry Winkle, the final resting place of many of California's pioneers was forever lost when the Odd Fellow's Cemetery in San Francisco was removed, shown here in this circa 1930 photo, and its inhabitants place in unmarked graves in Colma, California.

at Sear's Point on the northern end of San Francisco Bay. From there a steamer could complete the voyage to San Francisco – or any other port in the world. This would give the farmers, and most specifically, the wine makers of the Sonoma Valley, a reliable transportation route to their primary market in San Francisco. Among the nine trustees of the Sonoma Valley Prismoidal Railroad was Henry Winkle. The company was incorporated February 15, 1875, and capitalized with 1,000 shares at \$100 each.⁽¹³⁾ The Pacific Iron Works built the locomotive in San Francisco and construction of the track was begun in June 1876.⁽¹⁴⁾ By the end of November 1876 the first 3.5 miles of track was opened.⁽¹⁵⁾

Winkle's continuing interest in this business venture is not well documented; however, it is known that the company failed in May 1877 and the line was converted to a more standard narrow gauge, which was eventually purchased by the San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad.⁽¹⁶⁾

Henry Winkle continued with his viticultural interests throughout the 1880's and was counted among the largest grape producers in Sonoma County until his death there on March 2, 1890. Henry was buried in the Odd Fellow's Cemetery in San Francisco, however, that cemetery was moved and along with most of the 26,000 removals, he was re-buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Colma, California, where it is presumed Henry Winkle is now reposing, in an unmarked grave.⁽¹⁷⁾

Much of his estate passed to his brother Henry Winkle, Jr., who moved to Sonoma and continued growing



A typical San Francisco cable car of the period of the 1870's showing the "dummy", loaded with passengers and pulling the passenger car which is empty. Then, as now, most people preferred to sit in the open section unless the City fog was particularly heavy and cold.

grapes as well as controlling Winkle Brothers Bakery in San Francisco. Henry Winkle's widow, Emma Winkle, continued to reside in her beautiful Sonoma home until it was reduced to ashes. The Daily Republican (Santa Rosa, California), reported on October 3, 1891:

"The fine house of Mrs. Henry Winkle, two miles east of Sonoma, caught fire Friday afternoon and was totally destroyed. The loss of over \$2,000 was partially covered by insurance."

Emma Winkle then moved to San Francisco, but it seems her run of bad luck followed. The San Francisco Chronicle reported on October 29, 1891:

"Emma Winkle has sued the Sutter-street Railway Company to recover \$10,000 damages for being run into by a dummy."

Rather harsh words by the Chronicle but the vernacular of the day was not directed at the cable car driver, but the car itself. The early cable cars of San Francisco were composed of two separate units. The passenger car was actually pulled by a separate unit called the "dummy".

This was the section that gripped the moving cable installed in a track below the pavement. The dummy was then attached to the primary passenger carrier by a coupling, although the dummy could usually accommodate some passengers as well.

Emma Winkle continued to live in San Francisco until the death of her

brother-in-law, William Winkle, and then moved to Santa Cruz, California, and lived with Charles Steudeman, the oldest son of her brother, John Steudeman. Emma died in Santa Cruz on July 30, 1904, and is buried in Santa Cruz Memorial Park Cemetery.

Henry and Emma Winkle produced no children but descendants of Henry's siblings, Henry Winkle, Jr., and Martha Winkle Adler, are currently counted among the residents of California and Washington State. However, none carry the Winkle surname.

THE BOTTLE

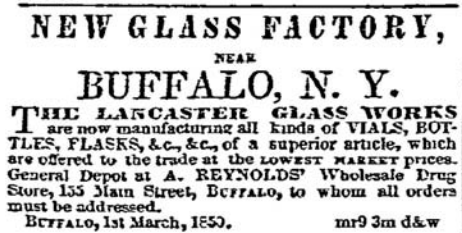
The pictured example is apparently one of an original 5,000, although it is difficult to determine how many have survived. Not extremely rare, the bottle, embossed **HENRY WINKLE / SAC. CITY** and with **XX** on the reverse, was most commonly found in excavations around the old part of Sacramento. It was very rarely found in San Francisco so the

bottles must have stayed in Sacramento when they were sold by the sheriff in October 1853. The color is nearly always aquamarine or light green and they often exhibit bubbly glass. Some specimens have been found with open or blowpipe pontils which are highly prized, even though they were all likely blown with a single order – late in 1851 or early 1852. The manufacturer remains a complete mystery, but they were definitely not blown in California since no glass factories were operating there at the time.

The double X is usually associated with drink containing some alcoholic content and, with two Xs, often referred to double distillation although, alcoholic drink was not known to have been bottled by Winkle. He may have sold porter or weiss beer but even that is unlikely. The Lancaster Glass Works is the only documented company that comes to mind who used the X embossing on soda water bottles, although there are other un-attributed examples known.

Lancaster Glass Works does fit the period for manufacture of the Winkle bottles as it was in operation at that time.

Endnotes



This advertisement for the Lancaster Glass Works documents its full operation by early 1850. It is a candidate for the manufacture of the Henry Winkle soda bottles, but attribution is weak and can be based solely on the use of embossed Xs, similar to the Lancaster Glass Works soda bottles. An eastern coastal or Pittsburgh are glass works would seem more likely as a source, simply because of the transportation advantage. Perhaps Winkle got a special introductory price from the Lancaster Glass Works. (Milwaukee Sentinel, May 2, 1850)



(left) The face of a typical pint Henry Winkle soda water bottle.
(right) Reverse of the Henry Winkle soda bottle showing the double Xs.

- (1) Alley, Bowen & Co.: History of Sonoma County, California. 1880. pg. 686
- (2) On December 31, 1849, one H. Winkle left New Orleans on the Brig Major Eastland for Chagres, Panama, his first leg on a voyage to California. (Daily Picayune [New Orleans, Louisiana] January 1, 1850) This may be our Henry Winkle.
- (3) History of Sonoma County, California. 1880. pg. 687
- (4) Sacramento Daily Union Sacramento, CA) Decembr 24, 1850
- (5) Alta California (San Francisco, CA) November 16, 1852
- (6) Daily Democratic State Journal (Sacramento, California) October 12, 1853
- (7) Daily Evening Bulletin (San Francisco, CA) March 25, 1856
- (8) *ibid.*, August 6, 1856
- (9) The subject of this sketch was actually named John Henry Winkle but preferred to use his middle name as his first name. To confuse matters he had a younger brother named Henry Winkle, Jr. who also used Henry as his first name. Thus there were two brothers living in San Francisco whose names were Henry Winkle.
- (10) San Francisco Chronicle, May 21, 1896
- (11) *ibid.*, September 1, 1890
- (12) San Francisco Bulletin October 15, 1874
- (13) Daily Alta California (San Francisco, CA) February 16, 1875
- (14) *ibid.*, July 14, 1876
- (15) The New York Times, December 3, 1876
- (16) George Woodman Hilton, American Narrow Gauge Railroads: Stanford University Press. 1990, pg. 335
- (17) In 1902 an ordinance banning further burials within the City of San Francisco was passed by its Board of Supervisors. Further, nearly all of existing cemeteries had to be moved out of the City limits. Removal of the 26,000 bodies in the Odd Fellows Cemetery was begun in 1929 and it took six years to complete the project. Most were removed to Greenlawn Cemetery in Colma, California, and many of the old tombstones were used to build a seawall at Aquatic Park in San Francisco.