

Julia Lodge

Julia Lodge, the last of three unmarried sisters who were direct descendants of Martina Castro, died Tuesday in a local convalescent hospital. She was 93.

She is survived by cousins who include Attorney Harry Lucas Jr. of Santa Cruz, Alice Lucas Smith of Beverly Hills and Marion Antoinette Eams of Atherton.

Rosary services will be Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at Wessendorf and Holmes Funeral Chapel, 223 Church St. A Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated Friday at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Capitola. Interment will be in Soquel Cemetery, 3680 Old San Jose Road, Soquel.

Miss Lodge was preceded in death by her sisters, Lulu Lodge in 1970, and Carrie Lodge in 1979.

The three sisters for many years lived in the old Lodge home between Capitola and Soquel which stood on the last tiny piece of the Mexican Land grant given to their ancestor, Martina Castro Lodge, in 1834.

The home today is part of a condominium complex and has been extensively remodeled. It was built by the sisters' aunt, Marie Guadalupe Lodge, and her French husband, Joseph Avera, and was deeded to the sisters in 1920.

The Lodge sisters were descendants of Joaquin Castro who walked with the DeAnza party from Sonora, Mexico, to California in 1776.

Martina Castro Lodge, who was their grandmother, at one time held more than 34,000 acres of land in what is now Santa Cruz County, obtained in several Mexican land grants. Martina married Simon Cota, was widowed, then married Michael Lodge, a sailor from Dublin, Ireland. Lodge later disappeared while carrying his gold home to Soquel from the northern Mother Lode. It is believed he was murdered for his treasure.

The historic Lodge, Peck and Fallon families of Santa Cruz Mid-County area were all related through marriages although the three sisters remained single and made their home together all of their lives. From 1892 until 1970-71 when it was sold, one or more of the sisters lived in the old Lodge home.