

THE DIVERSITY CENTER at 1117 Soquel in old Villa de Branciforte is hosting the art of:

JULIA ELIZABETH LONERGAN

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“The Magnolia Rose Luxury Hotel,
Capitola, Mexico, 1853”



Acrylic, Size 4 X 5 ft., “The Magnolia Rose, 1853, Captiola” was the Capital of Alta California, connected to the White House, aka “Rispin Mansion” by waterway.

The large painting accompanies Lonergan & Guerisoli’s (2009) “*The Haunting of Mission Santa Cruz, Mexico, 1708 to 1876*”, new book which documents the “land grabs” in Mission Santa Cruz. It was published independently with free software on amazon.com.

The grande hotel was built in Capitola on the Spanish land grant to Martina Castro 1808, when Mission Santa Cruz was Mexico. Her son Jose Joaquin Castro was the Governor of Alta California, Mexico at Port Alviso from 1800 to 1831 when he moved to the Castro Adobe in Watsonville (then called Pajaro). This grande hotel was part of the massive land grabs of California after the American civil wars of 1856 to 1865 and the assassination of

President Abraham Lincoln in 1866. The Castro's land would be stolen in 1876 by a group of Puritans working underground with the Freemasons. The so-called founder of Santa Cruz was A. F. Hearnese, or Hinds, and is also Heinz of the Tomatoe Ketchup. He and his partners planned and executed the murders and disappearances of the last Castro heirs to Rancho San Andres (Soquel, Capitola, Aptos, Branciforte) and Mission Santa Cruz became "a city" one year later, in 1877. The name "Hearne" comes from German, and means "Mister". It is the origin of the names "Neary" and "Kearney". They are people and place names now.

Mission Santa Cruz was a Spanish-Moorish Mission, Villa de Branciforte was a port on the Monterey Bay and Capitola was the Capitola of Alta California Mexico and the Spanish-mexican navy was under Governor J. Joe Castro since 1787, and his then son-in-law by 1840. The 1853 Governor's second wife, Rafaela Castro Leon (1823-1876), lived and died in "Aptos Village" which was private Mexican property. Governor Joe Castro's first wife, Lydia Pacheco Hubberd lived in Monterey (1808-1876), and died in 1905 after fleeing to Texas with her twins. Joe Castro governed from the so-called haunted "Rispin Mansion" on Soquel and Wharf. This solid stone, 4 story, 22 bedroom mansion was the North Mexican White House used for international diplomacy by the Governor Joe Castro I (1797-1800), the famous Luis Maria Valenzia (1800-1831) and Governor Joe Castro II, from 1837 to 1867.

The last Mexican Governor to rule in Capitola was lynched in Mission San Juan Bautista in 1876 for a "stage coach robbery" on the Pacheco Pass, Mt. Madonna. It was the same crime charged on Pedro Tiburcio Vasquez, the "famous Mexican bandit." Tiburcio was really a Mayor of Villa de Branciforte and a founder of the old Adobes in Mission Monterey. The Vasquez adobes were built in Monterey, Alta California, Mexico as early as 1802. Rose Vasquez Castro (Hihn) was born around that time. She was 22 when she married the old man Castro in 1832. She went missing in 1839, after his death, and was interned in a convent for unmarried and pregnant women. She is the mother of Angela Castro Vasquez (born 1833), George Espinoza Vasquez (born 1838) before going to the convent, Mathilda Hihn (born around 1845) after going to the convent, Alice "Sullivan" (born 1866) in the convent and raised in the orphange. Alice had Coleman Gibbs Watson (born 1859) and Princetta Lincholin Sullivan (born 1866). These children were raised by Mathilda Hihn as her own children, but they were the children of Reverend Hihn and the rape of Rose Castro and her daughters (the Mexican heiresses to the Magnolia Rose). (Volume 2 of the Haunting goes into this). The Vasquez family is an Indigenous family from Villa de Branciforte and the real heirs of "Watsonville".

The local historians still expouse the "official" story of Monterey, which starts in 1847 with the arrival of Reverend Colston, which was "Coleman Gibbs Watson", the landgrabber of Watsonville, and the son/grandson of A.F. Hihns. He married A.F. Hihn's daughter

Princetta Lincoln Sullivan in 1880, a stolen land grant was named “Watsonville”. He died suddenly in 1887 year. Historians claim him to be the early founder of Monterey, but he was raised “officially” as the orphaned son of Lorena Hihn, A.F. Hihn’s oldest daughter who died in 1865 (but was really the child of George Castro). Princetta Sullivan married Coleman Watson II. The Watsons became the local Matsons, or Martins, aka “Martinelli’s” of 1868. They are buried in the Mission Replica in Santa Cruz in the 1930s. Their oldest daughter, Ada Bell Watson married Ernest Lee “Lenihan” or “Lahnagen”, and was my great grandfather on my paternal side. They were members of the Freemasons here in Santa Cruz.

The BayView Hotel in Aptos Village is one remaining piece of the “land grabbed” and later dismembered Magnolia Rose. This was once a Mexican dance and ballroom for the State Government of Alta California, which functioned in Mission Monterey. Mission Carmel was named after Carmela (Pacheco Castro) the twin of Lydia Pacheco, the Governor’s wife, born 1808. The Bayview has been moved and is the piece on the Hill in the Painting. The other pieces of the Magnolia Rose Mansion were stolen and moved to the City of Santa Cruz in 1887. If you want to read more, the book is available on amazon.com and through the order form below and has 60 pictures and 134 color pages.

To order a copy by mail of Lonergan, J. & A. Guerisoli’s “The Haunting of Mission Santa Cruz, Mexico, 1708 to 1876”:

send \$40 and your address to:
Lonergan & Guerisoli Books
P.O. Box 7606
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

*10% of all money raised will go to the Diversity Center.

Thanks for your support,

Julia Elisabeth “Lahnagen” Lonergan ;-)