

FROM: King Merrill - Santa Ynez Valley Public Relations Bureau  
Solvang, Calif.

-For Release at Will-

SOLVANG, CALIF. ---- Sheltered by the shadow of Old Mission Santa Ines and only a walking distance from the thriving Danish-American community of Solvang in the Santa Ynez Valley 40 miles north of Santa Barbara, is one of California's most significant but least known State historical monuments.

This is the Mission's old grist mill, once situated on Mission land, but now a part of a ranch owned by Thorvald and Carl Rasmussen, long-time residents of Solvang which was founded in 1911 as a Danish colony.

The grist mill was dedicated Sept. 9, 1950, and the bronze plaque, unveiled by a direct descendant of Joseph (Jose) Chapman, the Yankee builder, was revealed to the public almost to the hour of that day 100 years before when President Fillmore signed a document making California the 31st state to enter the union of the United States.

The plaque tersely describes the grist mill's origin:

"Built 1820 by Joseph Chapman, Bostonian deserter from Pirate Bouchard who burned Ortega Adobe, Rancho de Refugio, Chapman arrested, sentenced to firing squad but paroled to Mission Santa Ines. As master workman, built this New England type grist mill and duplicate at Mission San Gabriel. Married Guadalupe Ortega at Mission Santa Ines, founded important California family. Marker placed by California Centennial Commission in cooperation with Reina del Mar Parlor No. 126, N.D.G.W."

Later at San Gabriel, Chapman's ability and versatility captivated the padres. He hewed timbers for the Los Angeles Plaza Church and built a 60-ton ship, "The Guadalupe".

Chapman, who died about 1849, left a rancho of about 5,000 acres near Los Angeles.

## Cutlines

HISTORIC OLD GRIST MILL ---- The remains of California's first New England type grist mill, a state historical monument, stand in the shadow of Old Mission Santa Ines in Solvang 40 miles north of Santa Barbara. Mill was built in 1820 by Joseph Chapman, Bostonian deserter from a pirate ship which plundered Rancho de Refugio along the coast midway between Solvang and Santa Barbara. Chapman did the mill construction while on parole at the Old Mission.



Please Credit:  
KING MERRILL  
Rancho El Alamo Pintado  
Solvang, California