

The following documents were transmitted as attached electronic files to the email from D. Jones. dated May 2, 2001:

1. Letter from Nicholas F. Bellantoni (U. of CT) to Douglas R. Jones, April 3, 2000, (filename: letter1.jpg)
2. Letter from William Pinkney (AMISTAD) to Douglas R. Jones, December 4, 2000, (filename: letter2.jpg)
3. Letter from David O. White (CT Historical Comm.) to Douglas R. Jones, May 18, 2000, (filename: letter3.jpg)
4. Letter from Warren R. Perry (Central CT State U.) to Douglas R. Jones, May 20, 2000, (filename: letter4.jpg)
5. Letter from Jan Sweet (Haddam Historical Society) to Douglas R. Jones, May 31, 2000, (filename: letter5.jpg)
6. Letter from Jan Sweet (Haddam Historical Society) to Douglas R. Jones, May 31, 2000, (filename: letter6.jpg)
7. News Release, "Venture Smith: From African Prince to New England Slave to Proud Haddam Neck Landowner," undated. (filename: pr1.jpg)
8. News Release, "Two lectures about African American prosperity in New England are scheduled in Connecticut during February," February 2000. (filename: pr2.jpg)
9. News Release, "Douglas R. Jones Biographical," undated. (filename: pr3.jpg)
10. News Article "Nuclear plant's land belonged to slave, prince," Middletown Press, February 25, 1999. (filename: pr5.jpg)
11. CY Today, April 27, 1999. (filename: today.jpg)
12. Traditions, Venture Smith (filename: venture1.jpg)
13. Photo of foundation (filename: Image1.jpg)

Documents Nos. 10 and 12 were subsequently replaced by facsimile copies to provide readable versions.

From: "Trevor" <trev@t-boneranch.com>
To: <jed1@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, May 2, 2001 7:20 PM
Subject: Douglas R Jones/Venture Smith

This email account is being used only to send this message. Please respond to: drjones@ntwrk.net Attachments are photo documents in a ZIP file.

Douglas R. Jones
50A South Main St
4/10/01
Essex, Ct. 06426
(860)-767-1781

e-mail: jed1@nrc.gov

Greetings: Mr. Joe E Donoghue

A short time ago I spoke to a Louis L. Wheeler about a subject I have much interest in, it's a story About a man named Venture Smith. I give lecture slide presentations about his life. I have attached a small amount of info about the project I'm involved in. I understand that Conn. Yankee Power Plant is being decommissioned, and I along with some other admirers of Venture have some Concern about the land associated with him. And I understand from a few letters that I've seen (Jan. 8, 01) Ct. Historical Comm. Also (Feb 21, 01) NRC. That I believe is a request to uncover more information related to the historical Significance of the related sites. Well Sir I have a great deal of info. about Venture and would Consider it a privilege to be a part of any discovery process along with (8.9.10 th) generation descendents. Also with some proof of four or more foundations I've located which are believed to have been built by the hands of this remarkable 17 century African Prince.

Mr. Wheeler informed me that you are now the man in charge and I should forward my request to you. So I have with high hopes you will see value in any contribution I could make to your discovery process. I hope once you review these materials you would find that the preservation of these sites is of the most Importance. Mr. Donoghue I very much would like to be of service, and play a role.

Please feel free to contact me by phone, or standard mail and e-mail.

Thank you, for your attention and time, I'll look forward to the further sharing of this rich story with all Who would wish to listen.

Douglas R Jones
drjones@ntwrk.net
(860)-767-1781

cc: Louis L Wheeler



University of Connecticut
Connecticut State Museum of Natural History

Office of State Archaeology

Nick Bellantoni, Ph.D.
Senior Archaeologist

April 3, 2000

Douglas R. Jones
Marketing Promotion Director
50A South Main Street
Essex, CT 06426

Dear Douglas:

This correspondence is written in support of your Venture Smith video project. The Venture Smith story is an extraordinary part of Connecticut history that has yet to be told effectively. Not only would your video create that public awareness but very much a part of this educational process will be archaeological survey work at the sites associated with Venture Smith some of which you have been able to point out to us.

We feel that the archaeological components of Venture Smith's house and work stations at Haddam Neck are intact and have a great deal of integrity so that an archaeological survey of these areas should yield important information about the Venture Smith story. Your documentation of that along with historical archival retrieval will be a very effective way to tell the Venture Smith story to the general public.

We support your efforts and look forward to working with you on this project. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance in any way.

Sincere regards,

Nicholas F. Bellantoni
Connecticut State Archaeologist

cc: Dr. Warren Perry, CCSU
David Poirier, Connecticut Historical Commission

An Equal Opportunity Employer

3107 Horsebarn Hill Road, U-214
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-4214

Telephone: (860) 486-5248

Facsimile: (860) 486-5248*51

e-mail: nbelle@uconnvm.uconn.edu



AMISTAD *America*

Captain William "Bill" Pinkney
Commander of the Amistad
captbill@ameristad.org

Amistad America, Inc.
c/o Mystic Seaport
58 Greenmanville Ave.
Mystic, CT 06355
860.556.0003
860.556.4857 fax

Amistad America, Inc.
Post Office Box 1808
New Haven, CT 06507

December 4, 2000

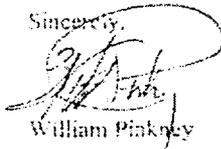
Mr. Douglas R. Jones
50A South Main Street
Essex, CT 06426

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for sharing with me the story of Venture Smith. It is a moving story and one that I believe should be brought to it proper status in United States history.

I wish you the best in attempting to get the word out and presenting the Venture Smith Project to Connecticut and the world. Please keep me informed on your progress. I feel the project on my list of things I think should be brought to light. Best wishes.

Sincerely,



William Pinkney



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 18, 2000

Douglas R. Jones
Diamonds Blue Water Productions
50A South Main Street
Essex, CT 06426

Dear Mr. Jones:

I was pleased to meet you last week and learn more about your research and work on the life of Venture Smith, whose grave is listed on the Connecticut African American Freedom Trail. Venture Smith is one of a very few early African Americans in Connecticut who wrote about his life and experiences while enslaved and while free. Any additional information that can be unearthed about his life will be a major contribution to not only Connecticut's history, but that of the United States as well.

We hope that you will make the Connecticut Historical Commission aware of any sites associated with Venture Smith that are now under investigation that might be later included into the Freedom Trail. Such sites would need to be accessible to the visiting public.

I will take the names you provided to me from Venture Smith's publication and attempt to learn something about their background. Whatever I find I will share with you. I hope that your project will be successful because the story of Venture Smith's life should be known to a much larger audience.

Sincerely,

David O. White
Museum Director

TEL: (203) 566-3005 FAX: (203) 566-5078
59 SOUTH PROSPECT ST. - HARTFORD, CONN. 06106 - 1901
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

1615 Stanley Street P.O. Box 4010 New Britain, CT 06050 - 4010 www.ccsu.edu

May 20, 2000

Mr. Douglas R. Jones
Diamond Blue Waters Productions
50a South Main Street,
Essex, CT. 06426

Dear Doug,

This letter is written in support of your Venture Smith video project. Venture Smith, like most of Connecticut's African heritage, has been marginalized by traditional United States histories. Your video project is an opportunity to make Venture's exciting life story available to a wider audience. By recording the initial investigations of the Venture Smith properties at Haddam Neck, including those you have discovered, the documentary research when it begins, and the preliminary archaeological survey research that will be done, you will provide the scientific community with a visual record of the research from its early stages. In addition, your plan to involve the descendants of Venture in this endeavor further insures a community component linking the scientific research to general public engagement and education.

We support your efforts and look forward to being a part of this very important project.

Sincerely,

Warren R. Perry
Associate Professor of Anthropology

Haddam Historical Society, Inc.

May 31, 2000

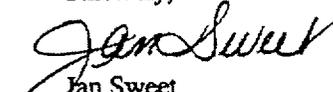
Douglas R. Jones
50A South main Street
Essex, CT 06424

Dear Douglas,

I wanted to thank you for the research you did on the Venture Smith story for the Haddam Historical Society. Our members enjoyed your talk about Venture's life, and are intrigued with hearing about further developments as you pursue your interest in this remarkable man. I hope you will consider coming back to speak to us in the future.

Please let me know if I can provide additional assistance.

Sincerely,


Jan Sweet
Executive Director



The Thankful Arnold House
Hayden Hill and Walkiey Hill Roads
Haddam, Connecticut

Haddam Historical Society, Inc.

May 31, 2000

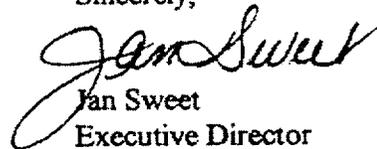
Douglas R. Jones
50A South main Street
Essex, CT 06424

Dear Douglas,

I wanted to thank you for the research you did on the Venture Smith story for the Haddam Historical Society. Our members enjoyed your talk about Venture's life, and are intrigued with hearing about further developments as you pursue your interest in this remarkable man. I hope you will consider coming back to speak to us in the future.

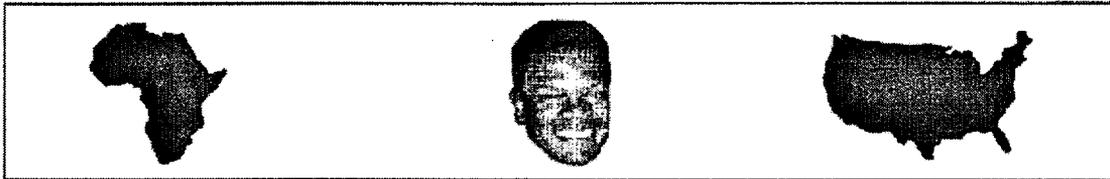
Please let me know if I can provide additional assistance.

Sincerely,


Jan Sweet
Executive Director



The Thankful Arnold House
Hayden Hill and Walkley Hill Roads
Haddam, Connecticut



Douglas R. Jones

50A South Main Street, Essex, CT 06426
Tel. 860.767.1781 • Email: douglarjones@juno.com

News Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Douglas R. Jones (860) 767-1781

VENTURE SMITH: FROM AFRICAN PRINCE TO NEW ENGLAND SLAVE TO
PROUD HADDAM NECK LANDOWNER

Haddam, Connecticut hosts a legend comparable to that of the Amistad slave ship rebellion. This is the story of a six-year-old African prince, firstborn son of the first and eldest wife of the King of Dukandarra, Guinea, captured by the French in 1726. By his endurance, tenacity and wit, he defied the "peculiar institution" of slavery and social apartheid, to purchase his freedom and over 128 acres of land on the Salmon River Cove, which is part of the Haddam Neck Peninsula.

At the age of six, the young Broteer found himself on the slave ship heading to a strange New World. While on board, Ship Steward Robertson Mumford purchased him for four gallons of rum and a piece of calico cloth. Thus, Venture got his name on the account that Mumford used his own private venture capital for the purchase. At thirty-one, after being sold to Hempstead Miner of Stonington and again to COL Oliver Smith he earned his freedom five years later. Within a six-month period, he cut and corded four hundred cords of wood and thrashed seventy-five bushels of grain. He paid COL Smith 7½ pounds and two shillings, equal to \$9,400 today. Next, he purchased his wife, children and three other African captives and moved from Long Island to his newly purchased land on Haddam Neck, near Salmon River Cove. He made subsequent purchases until he owned over 128 acres of land and five dwellings, one for each of his two sons.

Douglas R. Jones, an Essex resident and authority on the life of Venture Smith lectures to historical societies, school groups and libraries. He shares five years of research with audiences through stories and transparency displays of documents and maps relating to Venture's life and land purchases. In the process of collecting video footage of the foundations of Venture's dwellings and interviews with his descendants, Mr. Jones is working on a documentary film of the life and journeys of this remarkable African prince turned slave then proud and respected Connecticut landowner. Mr. Jones is working with Dr. Warren Perry, Professor of Anthropology at Central Connecticut State University, Nicholas F. Bellantoni, State of Connecticut Archaeologist as well as contacts at the Connecticut Yankee Power Plant and the current property owners of the land previously owned by Venture Smith. The foundations of his dwellings still exist.

To contact Douglas R. Jones of Essex about lecturing or to support his historic documentary of Venture Smith, call (860) 767-1781 or direct your email to Douglasrjones@juno.com.



Douglas R. Jones – Consultant, spokesman, contributing writer, TV producer, private gourmet chef, and an authority of facts about the lives and contributions by African-Americans of New England – lives in Essex, Connecticut.



Douglas R. Jones

50A South Main Street, Essex, CT 06426
Tel. 860.767.1781 • Email: douglarrjones@juno.com

News Release

February 2000

Two lectures about African American prosperity in New England are scheduled in Connecticut during February

Haddam, Connecticut – February 13th

"The Life and Journey of Venture Smith", a prince born the son of a king in Guinea, Africa, and who was kidnaped and sold into slavery in America, will be the topic of a lecture presentation on Sunday, February 13th at 2:00 p.m. at the Haddam Historical Society by Douglas R. Jones of Essex, Connecticut. The lecture will take place in the Old Schoolhouse Meeting Place, 923 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT.

Venture Smith, despite his kidnap from Africa at the age of six years, survived the middle passage voyage in a slave ship by way of Barbados, and came to reside as a slave in Stonington, CT. He prospered in New England after his journey from slave ship to a proud, prosperous free man with direct ties to Haddam, Connecticut, where he owned three dwellings. All this after 30 years in slavery.

For further information about this talk call the Haddam Historical Society at 860-345-2400 or Mr. Jones at 860-767-1781. The lecture is free to members of the Haddam Historical Society with an admission of \$3.00 to adults; \$2.00 for seniors and \$1.00 for children.

Central Connecticut State College, New Britain, Connecticut – February 16th

A second presentation of "The Life and Journey of Venture Smith" by Mr. Jones will be held Wednesday, February 16th at 7:30 p.m. at Central Connecticut State College in New Britain, CT. For additional information call 860-832-1996.

The talk will be held at Copernicus Hall – Room 2310, on the campus. The event is sponsored by the CCSU Black Student Union. There will be no admission fee for this lecture.



Douglas R. Jones – Consultant, spokesman, contributing writer, TV producer, private gourmet chef, and an authority of facts about the lives and contributions by African-Americans of New England – lives in Essex, Connecticut.



Douglas R. Jones

50A South Main Street, Essex, CT 06426

Tel. 860.767.1781 • Email: douglasrjones@juno.com

Biographical

Douglas R. Jones resides in Essex. He is a Class of 1982 graduate of the *Culinary Institute of America* and has been a chef in many interesting places such as private schools, and private yachts, the Forbes' family private island home, as well as premiere restaurants along coastal New England.

Mr. Jones has been a consultant and spokesman for Spicetime Foods, Inc., an international importer/exporter and manufacturer of spices, seeds and herbs. He also has been a contributing writer to several New England publications.

He is certified as a public access TV producer and is a self-taught free-lance photographer. Over the last several years, Mr. Jones has compiled a significant amount of information on the lives and contributions of African-Americans, and others, of New England. Mr. Jones is developing several documentaries and lecture presentations from his research.

Another current project for Mr. Jones is developing a television culinary production about the evolution of American cuisine, its influences and relationship to diversity in traditional American cooking and of food today.



Douglas R. Jones - Consultant, spokesman, contributing writer, TV producer, private gourmet chef, and an authority of facts about the lives and contributions by African-Americans of New England - lives in Essex, Connecticut.

The Middletown Press | A6 | Thursday, February 25, 1999

Nuclear plant's land belonged to slave, prince

Page 1

By ERIK HESSELBERG

Middletown Press Staff

HADDAM — Who would have thought that the decommissioning of the Connecticut Yankee nuclear power plant would interface with Black History Month?

Recent issues of the nuclear plant newsletter, "CY Today," featured the story of East Haddam's legendary freed black slave, Venture Smith, placing the tale of the enslaved son of an African prince among the usual dry bulletins.

Connecticut Yankee's interest in this saga comes from recent publicity about Smith, the foundation of whose house is on the company's property. With the dismantling of the 30-year-old nuclear plant now begun and future uses of the site a major issue, the fate of these ruins is a concern.

In the past, the foundation stones only interested local historians, but now, with the focus on African American history, they have attracted national attention.

Documentaries have been done about Venture Smith. Public television filmed the foundation of his house. Now state archeologist Nicholas Bellantoni feels the site should be made a national landmark.

Bellantoni came to the nuclear plant two weeks ago to investigate reports of American Indian artifacts buried under Connecticut Yankee's parking lot. However, because of the difficulty of locating the buried relics, which apparently were seen 30 years ago during the ousting of the plant, Bellantoni shifted his attention to the rem-

nants of Smith's home, which is on open ground, about a quarter-mile from the plant.

The remarkable story of Venture Smith was written down for the first time in the late 1700s, several years before his death. The popular account was reprinted many times.

Venture Smith was the son of the prince of Dukandara in Guinea. When only 6, he was kidnapped by an enemy tribe and sold into slavery. Bought by the steward of a slave ship, he was brought to Connecticut, where he labored for more than 25 years under several masters.

Finally, at the age of 31, Smith was able to buy his freedom with money he earned from farming, fishing, trapping and odd jobs. To buy his wife and son's freedom, he fished, sailed on a whaler and ferried wood down the Connecticut River and up the coast to Rhode Island.

Smith eventually accumulated enough wealth to buy 100 acres on the Salmon River in Haddam Neck. There, he built three houses for himself and his family. He died in 1805.

"For a freed slave to be that successful is remarkable," said Dr. Kari Stofko, East Haddam's municipal historian.

Stofko also thinks the Smith site is significant, but determining which foundations stones belong to Smith's house may be difficult.

Stofko said several other houses were built on the property by subsequent land owners. It will take an archeologist to determine exactly which houses belonged to Smith and which were built after his death, he said.

"I think [the site] is probably just as significant as his grave stone," Stofko said, adding that no archeological study has been done.

Tony Nerrichio, a spokesman for Connecticut Yankee, said the company encourages studies of the site. "This is a historic site that we certainly want to honor and respect it," he said.

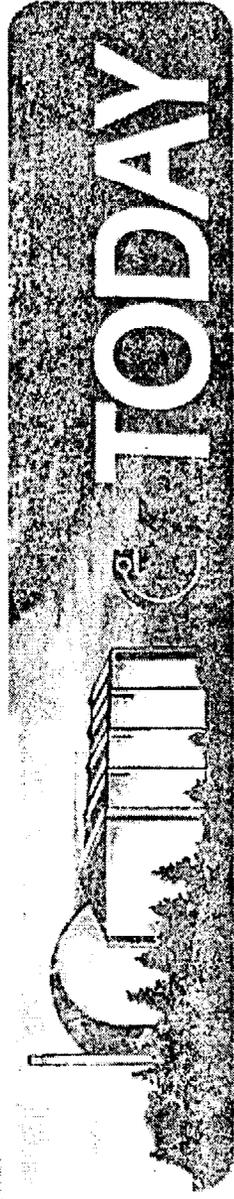
Smith's descendants, many of whom live in the area, are thrilled their ancestor is finally being recognized.

"My grandmother is smiling in heaven," said Elaine Warmseley, of Middletown, an eighth-generation descendant. "She would be so happy."

Warmseley said her grandmother, Florence Smith, often recounted Venture Smith's remarkable story. "She always told us that we were descendants of a king," Warmseley said.

Two years ago, the grave of Venture Smith, in the cemetery of the First Congregational Church in East Haddam, was placed on the Connecticut Freedom Trail. The trail honors individuals and places associated with black freedom.

See AFRICAN, Page A6



Decommissioning After 28 Years Of Service

No. 917

April 27, 1999

Days W/O LTA: 208

Editor: Greg Wilson

Fire Insurance Inspection

The Fire Protection Group would like to thank everyone at CY for a very successful Fire Insurance Inspection that took place last week. The Insurance Fire Inspector was very impressed with CY's good housekeeping practices, as this is very important when it comes to Fire Safety and Fire Prevention.

Remember, Your Fire Safety is totally in your hands. Good housekeeping is very important and is just another means to help keep you Fire Safe. Again, THANKS from the Fire Protection Group.

Engineering Programs / Fire Protection welcomes your comments, questions and concerns related to Fire Protection. Please contact Bill McMahon, Station Fire Protection Specialist located in Building # 70, Room 105. E-mail at billm@wv.com or call 304-333-3140.

Archeologists Tour Venture Smith Home Site

Archeologists from across the state, including members of the Archeological Conservancy, visited CY on April 19, 1999, to explore the Venture Smith Home Site. The Archeological Conservancy is the only national non-profit organization that acquires and preserves significant archeological sites in the United States. The group is very interested in the site, calling it "one of the best of its kind."

Bob Gravel, Executive Director for the Archeological Conservancy in Arlington, Virginia said, "The Venture Smith home site is promising and we will be back to explore it further." Neil Hollister from the Commonwealth State Archeologist office commented, "This is one of the best preserved sites I have seen."

During their visit, examination of the site revealed the location of the original wall and an area where a slave market, all such as possible, was disposed. These discoveries and other signs of past activity all heightened the enthusiasm of the visiting archeologists. Dr. Warren Perry from Central Michigan State University said, "This site is rich in history and could take up to three years to properly characterize from the archeological perspective."

We are very excited about the Newport South site being

considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Sites," said Mike Cavanaugh, CY Communications Manager. "Every effort will be made to cooperate with the group to accomplish this task."

Future visits are planned as the process of determining if an historical site can take several years.

East Haddam-Haddam Bridge Closure

It has come to our attention that construction activities will close the Haddam-East Haddam Bridge on Saturday morning, May 1, 1999 from midnight until 8:00 am. Please plan your travels accordingly to avoid alternate route delays.

Helping Out Bluebirds



Six a Kinnor checks out the new Bluebird box installed by Bob Russell and Fred Derdomb, Fred, a naturalist at heart, donated the idea. Fred has a nest box to CY. The open field near the river provides the ideal habitat required to support Bluebirds. Check it out on your next trail walk.

Today's CRs

CR 99-0252	Material surveys were not documented on Attachment C of RPA 12-2-22.
CR 99-0253	The CNS 8-120B Check failed the Lid Gasket Leak Test.
CR 99-0254	RPM 1-1-1 and RPM 1-2-1 Attachments A and C are not being completed.
CR 99-0255	Raised drums found in the north parking lot.
CR 99-0256	The extension of fencing for the Bus 10 project blocked the security CCTV.

30

CERTIFICATE.

STONINGTON, CONN., November 3, 1798.

THESE may certify, that VENTURE is a free negro man, aged about 69 years, and was, as we have ever understood, a native of Africa, and formerly a slave to Mr. James Mumford, of Fisher's Island, in the State of New York, who sold him to Mr. Thomas Stanton, 2d, of Stonington, in the State of Connecticut, and said Stanton sold said VENTURE to Col. Oliver Smith, of the aforesaid place. That said VENTURE hath sustained the character of a faithful servant, and that of a temperate, honest and industrious man, and being ever intent of obtaining his freedom, he was indulged by his masters after the ordinary labor on the days of his servitude, to improve the nights in fishing and other employments to his own emolument, in which time he procured so much money as to purchase his freedom from his late master, Colonel Smith; after which he took upon himself the name of VENTURE SMITH, and has since his freedom purchased a negro woman, called Meg, to whom he was previously married, and also his children who were slaves, and said VENTURE has since removed himself and family to the town of East Haddam, in this State, where he hath purchased lands on which he hath built a house, and there taken up his abode.

NATHANIEL MINOR, Esq. (1)
ELIJAH PALMER, Esq. (1)
CAPT. AMOS PALMER. (1)
ACORS SHEFFIELD. (1)
EDWARD SMITH. (1)

TRADITIONS
—OF—
VENTURE!

—KNOWN AS—

VENTURE SMITH.*

—COMPILED BY—

H. M. SELDEN.

SEVERAL editions of the Life of Venture have been published successively by his family, and by them circulated throughout the county, but more in the towns contiguous to his home, where the subject was well known for his abnormal strength, industry and goodly character, confirmatory of the personal narrative. Copies of the remarkable autobiography were also sent by purchasers to friends abroad. It has long been out of print. To meet the demand for a new edition and to include traditions gathered by correspondence, personal intercourse with the aged and supplemented by some account of his family, is the object of the compiler. Tradition says Venture's amanuensis was Elisha Niles, of Chatham, who had been a school-teacher, and also a Revolutionary soldier, like one of the sons of Venture.

The reader of this new edition will find much in confirmation of the truthfulness of Venture's statements.

*Venture assumed the name of Smith in compliment to his latest master, Col. Oliver Smith, who generously permitted him to secure his freedom by his own earnings.

