

Venture Smith:

- West African Royalty
- Captive Slave
- Free Black
- Affluent Merchant-Farmer & Author of “A Narrative of the Life & Adventures of Venture, Native of Africa, but Resident above Sixty Years in the United States of America, related by himself” (original printing 1798).

Smith Timeline:

- 1729: Born into the Dukandarra tribe of Guinea, the first born child of its Prince Saungm Furro, & the first of Saungm's three wives. His father named him Broteer.
- 1736: At the age of 6 & 1/2 yrs old Broteer was kidnapped by an enemy tribe and sold to Robert Mumford, steward of a Rhode Island slave ship, for four gallons of rum, & a piece of calico.
- 1751: When 22 years old he marries Meg, one of the Mumford slaves.
- 1738: Mumford renames him “Venture”, takes him to Rhode Island, & then to the Mumford estate on Fisher's Island, where he is enslaved for 14 years.
- 1752: Venture is sold to Thomas Stanton of Stonington Point, CT. A year or two later, Stanton buys his wife & infant daughter.
- 1760: Venture is sold to Col. Oliver Smith of Stonington for 56 pounds.
- 1765: After ca. 30 years in slavery, Venture buys his freedom from Col. Smith for 71 pounds and two shillings
- He moves to Long Island, where he supports himself by harvesting wood & river trafficking it and other merchandise.
- 1769: At age 40, Venture purchases the freedoms of his two sons for 200 dollars each.
- 1773: Venture purchases his pregnant wife for 40 pounds & son Solomon II is born free.
- 1775: Venture purchases the freedom of his daughter Hannah, sells his property on Long Island & buys property on Haddam Neck, CT.
- 1777: Venture purchased 70 acres in Salmon River Cove and builds his family home. He also purchased the freedom of several black slaves and helped them be economically independent.
- 1798: Venture narrates his life story (he could neither read nor write) to Elisha Niles of Chatham, a white school teacher. The autobiography is published & printed by C. Holt at the Bee-Office in New London
- Dies in 1805 at age of 77