

Beecher House Center for the Study of Equal Rights

DOCUMENTING VENTURE SMITH PROJECT

Born or lived in the Beecher House:
Harriet Beecher Stowe 1811-1824
Pete Seeger 1927-1929

Rachel Freeman Saint 1906-2007
Peter Seeger 1919-2014
George A. Krinsky 1942-2017

Society Founded in December 1997

Chandler B. Saint

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24 January 2017

Dear Friends of Venture Smith,

Venture Smith has lost his word guy. George Krinsky, the only person I know to use words more carefully than Venture, passed away Friday night 20 January 2017. The world lost a great journalist – I lost my best friend.

The best description of George came directly from Venture's *Narrative*: "It gives me joy to think that I have and that I *deserve* so good a character, especially for *truth* and *integrity*." George delivered *truth* and *integrity* every day in every article he wrote. He brought them to the project, in every bit of research and every word he wrote about Venture. He made me prove the facts of every statement I presented to him before we could use it. He exemplified *truth* and *integrity* and made them the foundation of the entire *Documenting Venture Smith Project*.

Maybe when George first read the *Narrative* he knew he had found a soul mate. With a master journalist's eye he saw and understood Venture better than the many academics who had looked at the story before.

He first covered the events around the DVSP as a reporter - then he became my partner in the search to understand Venture and to present his story to the general public with our book and the many talks we gave. George used Venture's words to tell Venture's story because they could have been his own words – George understood Venture.

George made me as well as the *Documenting Venture Smith Project* what they are today. He taught me wisdom, patience, and even some basic writing skills. He showed me how to understand and deal with all the people around the *Project* – both those for it and those against. He instilled all his values in me and in the *Project*.

Our similar life experiences allowed us to understand each other, and, somehow, to understand Venture better than many of the scholars and specialists. We set out to make Venture known and then use his story and his values to produce social change in the world.

George was my mentor, teacher, confidant, and my friend. George, I will do my best to not let you down – I will try to always work to your standards and promise to try and finish what we started.

On behalf of the whole *Documenting Venture Smith Project* I send our sympathies and condolences to his entire family.



Chandler B. Saint

Documenting Venture Smith Project

LANE DEBATES RECONSTRUCTION ~ *DOCUMENTING VENTURE SMITH PROJECT*

The *Documenting Venture Smith Project* is part of the *Beecher House Society Inc.*, an IRS recognized 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation
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