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Michael M. Smith, Former Media Mogul, Dies At 75

Michael M. Smith died on November 21 from complications due to prostate cancer at his home, the historic Lent-Riker-Smith Homestead, with his wife, Marion, by his side.

Born July 22, 1935 in Paris, France of Russian descent (nee Matveyev) Smith was educated in the United States and an alumnus of the Millbrook School.

He was founder of *Larimi Communications*, publishers of *Contacts Newsletter*, *Radio Contacts*, *Cable Contacts* and *T.V. News* founded in 1970. *Larimi* was later sold to *Billboard Publications*. Smith also founded the National Media Conference featuring such motivational speakers as Oprah Winfrey, Barbara Walters, Ralph Nader and countless others.

Along with his beloved wife of 27 years, photographer Marion Duckworth Smith, they restored the 1654 [Lent-Riker-Smith Homestead] farmhouse, which is on the National Register of Historic Places (see *NY Times*, Oct. 11, 2006). The



homestead was open for tours through local historical societies and for school children.

Smith is survived by a daughter, Laurel K. Vouvray of Austin, Texas and a step-daughter, Leslie Granger of San Jose, California.

A wake was held on November 29 at Thomas M. Quinn & Sons Funeral Home, 35-20 Broadway, Astoria. Burial will be private and take place in the Riker Cemetery on the grounds of the historic farmhouse.