

Gregory Sanford

Vermont State Archivist (retired)

Sam panel--Feb. 8th

There are so many ways to remember, to honor, Sam. Certainly, for me, there is the personal—he was my mentor, collaborator, colleague, friend, and, with Harriet, my family.

There is also his influence on many different research disciplines. I will enumerate a few, with the hopes we can discuss which are ongoing legacies, which have faded,

As already discussed Sam set in motion the better preservation and accessibility of Vermont court records. Beyond that there were, within Sam's orbit, lawyers, judges, and justices. He helped bring historical context to many legal dialogues. Currently Gary Shattuck and others have taken wonderful advantage of the improved accessibility of court records.

Sam also believed in the cross-discipline sharing of research. One on-going measure of that interest is the Center, which Sam co-founded.

Sam influenced recordkeeping beyond legal records. Among his students are numerous folks who went on to careers in archival management. I became state archivist, Jeffrey Marshall is head of special collections, and Wiz Dow not only worked on Vermont projects but also taught archival management at LSU. Sam also worked closely with Connie Gallagher and others at special collections.

Sam believed research could, research should, inform our ongoing public dialogues. In one example, he provided his research to help inform policy discussions over whether Vermont should retain its system of assistant judges. His writings on side judges contains one of my favorite Sam lines: Good logic doesn't always make good history.

The idea of using research to inform public dialogues became the lodestar of my career.

Sam played an important is the development of oral history nationally and within VT. One of my first projects with Sam was through the George D. Aiken Oral History Project. This loops back to Sam's archival influences—he saw the value in interviewing Aiken and his contemporaries even though Aiken had deposited over 750 feet of records at UVM. The interviews fleshed out the papers and were also used to refine finding aids.

This is a breathless rush through my allotted time. Again, I hope we can discuss whether any of this truly remains a legacy—who is doing contemporary political research? Who is doing oral history; and so on—I look forward to your discussion.