The UVM History Department is sad to report the death of our dear colleague and friend Neil Stout, who passed away on 3 February 2023 at the age of 90. Neil grew up on a farm in Ohio, excelled in his studies in high school, and won a scholarship to Harvard University, a rare transition in those days. Graduating in 1954, he enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in France. Upon completion of his military service, he enrolled in graduate study in American history at the University of Wisconsin and earned his PhD in 1961. He taught history at Texas A & M University for two years, then joined the History faculty at UVM in 1964.

During his nearly forty years as a teacher/scholar in the History faculty at UVM, Neil taught survey courses in United States history, as well as advanced courses in colonial and revolutionary era American history. He was instrumental in the founding of UVM’s Historic Preservation program and directed the UVM program in cultural history and museology. He was well-known among scholars for his work in maritime history, notably for his book on the Royal Navy in the era of the American Revolution, and for his work on the role of Sir John Temple in reestablishing trade relations between the United States and Great Britain toward the end of the eighteenth century. He also wrote an enormously popular student guide to historical writing, widely adopted for introductory history courses in colleges across the USA. He stayed in touch with many of his former students, who had enjoyed his courses and appreciated his teaching style and his mentoring.

Neil made important contributions to the profession as president of the New England Historical Association, as editor of Vermont History (the journal of the Vermont Historical Association), and as a member of the Vermont State Historic Preservation Advisory Council.

Neil was a scholar and an intellectual. But there was always in his personality vestiges of the qualities of character he had developed during his childhood as an Ohio farm boy --- the modesty, generosity, and good will endearing to all who knew him well.