

A POSTSCRIPT TO THE LAUNCH  
Awarding Nick and John a Testament of Gratitude  
From the Vermont Bar Association

Tonight we celebrate our friend Sam Hand for his many gifts, lectures, books, articles, his spirit and inspiration. His achievements are manifest at UVM, the Center, VHS, in his students and colleagues.

To put your arms around Sam's work, you need to reach beyond him to the many scholars who shared authorship with him, including Jeff Potash, Greg Sanford, Ralph Orth, Gene Sessions, Michael Sherman, Jennie Versteeg, Nick Muller and John Duffy, and others I haven't named. Few of the authors who've dedicated themselves to Vermont history have not been moved by his advice, correction, and enthusiasm.

Sam Hand was a collaborator on so many projects, sharing the research and writing, sparking that special illumination that comes when two or three minds collide to produce something more than any of them could have done on their own.

These affairs risk devolving into self-

The VBA was founded in part on a desire to preserve and understand the third branch, its