

Paul Gillies Lifetime Achievement Award Introduction, 5/9/19

To coin a phrase, it takes a village to receive a Lifetime Achievement

Award. Therefore, I start my remarks by celebrating what was a 50th anniversary of

research and publication would be too costly at that time

Later, Paul was hired by Secretary of State Jim Douglas to be his deputy. Early in Paul's tenure the position then known as editor of state papers became vacant. Paul remembered me and played a role in my hiring. His, and Jim's, sustained support were crucial in moving the editor position into the office of state archivist. As a side, years later we published the inaugurals of Vermont's governors as a full text searchable online publication.

Paul subsequently played a major role in other Archives' publications including an online history of judicial review and an annotated publication of the Journals of the Council of Censors. The latter made accessible the deliberations on, and amendments to, Vermont's Constitution up to 1870. Without Paul's work those publications would not have happened.

Paul seems to have crammed several life times into his research, writing, and public service. With Jim, Paul wrote a monthly column on municipal government issues based on the questions they received from town clerks, select boards, and others. These were eventually compiled in the Book of Opinions, which became the bible for town officials and residents.

Paul wrote and published works on Vermont's right to know laws and their application. Again, these became crucial resources for Vermonters.

Paul provided historical and legal advice on Vermont's surveying and town boundary issues. When state government moved to clear up its forgotten public rights of way, Paul became the leading expert on these 'ancient roads.' To do so he spent endless hours visiting town clerk offices around the state.

Paul wrote—and continues to write—a monthly column on Vermont's legal and judicial history for the Vermont Bar Journal.

Paul was a driving force in the Vermont Institute for Government and the Vermont Judicial History Society. To keep judicial history alive he created audience participation events in which historic cases were re-enacted.

*Vermont Legal History* (2013). Most recently *Law of the Hills: A Judicial History of Vermont* (2019).

I could consume the rest of evening recounting all Paul's other research and writing from the Berlioz history to his essays on the Vermont character to his writings from the statehood bicentennial. But that would miss the point.

What makes Paul such a great choice for the lifetime achievement award is his engaged sense of wonder. By that I mean Paul's insatiable curiosity