

Acknowledgements

Just like the efforts of the working men that formed New York's first trade unions and working men's political parties, finishing this project has been part of a collective endeavor, rather than an individual one. I would like to thank the numerous people and institutions that enabled me to conceive, research, and write this book. It is my honor to give thanks to your generosity and patience for all these years. 1

I began some version of this book in a course on "Manhood in America" taught by Bruce Dorsey while I was an undergraduate at the University of California at Santa Cruz. I thank him for setting me on this path and aiding me so generously along the way. Working with Robert Berkhofer Jr. also inspired me to continue studying history in graduate school. I would like to express my enormous gratitude to Karin Wulf, my advisor at American University. Karin Wulf has overseen my work since my first day in graduate school and her insight and comments have been invaluable to me. I could not have asked for a better reader or guide through graduate school. It is a great honor that I was her first doctoral student to finish. Paul Johnson, Alan Kraut, and Andrew Lewis all offered their support, time, and consideration. I'd also like to thank Seth Rockman for being the first phone call I make (it's local) when I have a historical problem. Marty Rojas and Justine Murison always keep me honest when I think I understand anything about early American literature. I am grateful for their wisdom and friendship. I would also like to thank the Tealuxe community for providing me with a peaceful workplace and tasty beverages.

I would like to express my gratitude to the institutions that supported me (financially and otherwise) during my years working on this book. American University's College of Arts and Sciences provided me with a dissertation fellowship, as well as a Mellon travel grant, and the Graduate Student Association supported my research travel for many years. Mary and the staff of the Interlibrary Loan Office at American University's library were invaluable. The New York State Archives and Library aided my stay in Albany with a Larry J. Hackman Research Residency. This project benefited greatly from an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship from the Library Company of Philadelphia and Historical Society of Pennsylvania and a research fellowship from the New-York Historical Society. Likewise, a Mayers Research Fellowship from the Huntington Library allowed me to include a number of unique and valuable sources. I owe a great debt to the McNeil Center for Early American Studies where I held a dissertation fellowship in 2002-2003. Dan Richter generously read several chapters of my dissertation and my colleagues significantly contributed to my work. I would also like to thank John Murrin for his guidance on Chapter Six, which appeared in an earlier version in *Early American Studies*.

My largest debt of thanks goes to Kate Wittenberg and the members of the Gutenberg-e Project at Columbia University Press. Sharene Azimi and Nathaniel Herz did a beautiful job guiding this project through its final stages. I am honored that the press and the American Historical Association prize committee gave me the opportunity to complete this study. I would also like to thank my colleagues at Bridgewater State College for creating an easy environment for me to get my work done, and especially Andy Holman, who read portions of this manuscript and offered useful suggestions. Mia Enright and the Office of Grants and Special Projects and CART have also helped fund this project and enabled me to complete it on time.

Finally, I would like to thank my family (Mom, Ben, Dad, Cindy, Julie, Gabriel, and Hannah) for all of their love and support over the years. While I don't get to see you enough, you have always been there for me. **5**