

Acknowledgments

Peppermint Kings has been about a decade in the making, although I wouldn't claim it was a decade of solid effort! I came to the history game later in life, so thanks are due first to the people who encouraged me to follow my interests and build a new career after my retirement from high tech. J. B. Shank at the University of Minnesota began an elective on the Enlightenment with a rousing "Welcome!" that I took personally. At Mankato State University, Charles Piehl, Erwin Grieshaber, and Christopher Corley all encouraged my interests and challenged my assumptions. Chris later helped me get my current job, so I am quite in his debt! At the University of Massachusetts Amherst, David Glassberg and Marla Miller helped develop my focus on environmental history and on biography. Christopher Clark at the University of Connecticut graciously agreed to help guide my research, always radiating interest and support. Edward Melillo at Amherst College exposed me to a global version of environmental history and its extensive historiography, and has become a good friend as well as a mentor.

Nancy Gray Garvin and Grace Lesure at the Ashfield Historical Society encouraged my interest in their town and its residents and were always interested in my findings. Ian Blair and Winship Todd welcomed me to the A. M. Todd Company and told interesting tales of their experiences in the peppermint oil business. "Peppermint Patty" Alena opened

the H. G. Hotchkiss building in Lyons and gave me a personal tour. And since this history would have been impossible without a *lot* of primary documents, I'm very grateful to the historians and archival staff members at Cornell, the Phelps Historical Society, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Western Michigan University, Harvard Business School's Baker Library, and the Records and Archives Department of Ontario County, New York, who were all very welcoming and helpful. Very late in the writing of this book, Cathy Moran Hajo kindly sent me correspondence between my subject, Albert Todd, and hers, Jane Addams, that added confirmation of a relationship I had only suspected.

Chris Fobare was a generous colleague, who provided valuable insights and offered much-appreciated support and encouragement. Terry Davis at Mankato State University encouraged me to write as I was beginning my serious study of history. Jean Thomson Black at Yale University Press has been a consistently encouraging advocate. My father, Salvatore F. Allosso, has helped me improve my writing over many years and remove a lot of commas. Last but not least, I'm very grateful for the support and encouragement of my family to develop and write this book. When obstacles or other interests threw me off course, they gave me the nudge I needed.