Acknowledgments

As WITH EVERYTHING IN life, this book is the product of generosity and encouragement from family, friends, mentors, colleagues, interlocutors, and institutions. It would be impossible for me to adequately express my sincere gratitude to all of them.

The origins of this project date back to my time studying history as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley. There, I had the privilege to learn from many inspiring graduate students and faculty, especially Carla Hesse, who took me under her wing as a research assistant and gave me the confidence to do historical research. I also worked as a reporter and editor at the *Daily Californian*, which taught me more than any class ever could about the press. Before Berkeley, I was fortunate that my first introduction to what it means to study history came early, at Beaverton High School. There, with the guidance of Peter Edwards especially, I developed a love for reading and writing history. My interest in French history in particular is owed to my time at the French American International School, where my teachers gave me the gift of foreign language and appreciation for another culture.

I generated the questions that motivate this book and undertook the research that undergirds it at Princeton University. The mentorship of the faculty there was a gift of inestimable value. My advisor, David A. Bell, encouraged me to ask big questions and prepared me to execute the necessary research. I cannot thank him enough for his thoughtful engagement with every piece of my written work, from my first-year seminar papers to this completed book. He has been my relentless champion and his balance of encouragement and rigorous criticism made this manuscript better at every stage. Sean Wilentz was generous enough to take

me on as a student who came to him as a scholar of France wanting to explore the American Revolution. He guided me through my initial foray into American history and constantly pushed me to think bigger. Linda Colley's work has long been an inspiration to me and her confidence in my ability has significantly shaped this project and my scholarly trajectory. I am deeply indebted to Wendy Warren, whose seminar on colonial American history led me to pursue transnational research. She has provided me honest advice and a model of scholarship I strive to emulate. Sophia Rosenfeld's scholarship inspired my attempt to write a history that was not bounded by national borders and her engagement with my work has significantly shaped this book. Beyond my committee, I was fortunate to learn from many great minds at Princeton, especially Anthony Grafton, Philip Nord, Yair Mintzker, Alec Dun, Michael Gordin, Ekaterina Pravilova, Eleanor Hubbard, Adam Beaver, and Janet Chen.

Princeton was more than an intellectual community to me; it became a home. The French historians in the department—Nimisha Barton, David Moak, Zoe Buonaiuto, Benjamin Bernard, Matthew McDonald, and especially Patrick De Oliveira (who weathered the archival experience alongside me in Paris)—all enriched my work and became good friends. Graduate school was fun and writing invigorating thanks to the friendships that grew in Dickinson Hall and Firestone Library. I am especially thankful to Richard Anderson, Dan Barish, Olivier Burtin, James Casey, Christian Flow, Josh Garrett-Davis, Joppan George, Saarah Jappie, Tommi Lankila, Jane Manners, Diana Andrade, Lee Mordechai, Morgan Robinson, Fidel Tavarez, Sean Vanatta, Matthew Chan, Teresa Davis, Heidi Hausse, Molly Lester, Chris Florio, Alex Chase-Levenson, Meg Leja, Andrew Edwards, Emily Kern, Emily Prifogle, Kalyani Ramnath, Devika Shankar, Joel Suarez, Paula Vedoveli, José Argueta Funes, and Anne Kerth. I was also fortunate enough to make friends outside the history department, who continue to provide very welcome refuge from purely scholarly talk: Sara Vanatta, Veronica Valentin, Elise Wang, Jasmin Mujanovic, and Rohit Lamba.

Writing this book took me around the world. In Paris, I spent many days in the Archives Nationales and I am thankful for the patience of the archivists and staff at the Marais and Pierrefitte sites. I also spent many afternoons in the Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris and the Bibliothèque nationale de France, where I am grateful to the librarians and staff who helped me access the materials I sought. In the United States, I undertook research at multiple institutions with generous grants

from each one. At the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Library Company of Philadelphia, I benefited from conversations with Jim Green and Connie King. There, I became friends with Nora Slonimsky and Mark Boonshoft; my conversations with them since have been enormously fruitful. I am grateful to Kate Viens and Conrad Wright for their suggestions and help navigating the collections at the Massachusetts Historical Society and to the staff at the Virginia Historical Society. While in Boston, I was welcomed by Corinna, Jan, and Tommy Matlis, who made my stay enjoyable. I also spent a memorable month at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon. There, I discussed my ideas with Lindsay Chervinsky, Erin Holmes, and Douglas Bradburn. Their curiosity and knowledge helped me see my work from new angles.

All of this research was made possible by financial support I received from the Princeton History Department, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the Council for European Studies, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, the Laurance S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship at the University Center for Human Values at Princeton, and the Friends of the APS Fellowship in Early American History at the American Philosophical Society.

I finished my dissertation there, in an office overlooking Independence Hall. My thinking benefited greatly from discussions with Patrick Spero, Dave Gary, Estelle Markel-Joyet, and Abby Shelton, who pointed me in the direction of many sources. This project was also enriched by conversations with other fellows at the APS, particularly Alexandra Montgomery, Brandon Layton, Amy Ellison, and Diana Marsh. I began to turn my dissertation into a book as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan's Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies in Ann Arbor. There, I gained interdisciplinary insight and camaraderie from my peers-Margaret Hanson, Jean Lachapelle, Fiona Shen-Bayh, and Natalia Forrat—and mentors, Allen Hicken, Dan Slater, Gregory Dowd, Joshua Cole, Susan Juster, Deena Goodman, Matthew Spooner, and Lisa Disch. The Weiser Center facilitated a manuscript workshop in which Paul Friedland, Seth Cotlar, Nathan Perl-Rosenthal, and Gregory Dowd generously participated. Their thoughtful engagement with my manuscript made the book considerably stronger.

I completed this book at the University of Notre Dame, where I was welcomed in the department of history and supported especially by

Elisabeth Köll and Jon Coleman as department chairs and by John McGreevy and Kathleen Sprows Cummings as mentors. Patrick Griffin's rigorous reading of my manuscript and his advice have been invaluable. I have also benefited from the guidance and insight of Alexander Martin, Karen Graubart, Darren Dochuck, Brad Gregory, Ted Beatty, John Deak, Daniel Graff, Margaret Meserve, Julia Adeney Thomas, Thomas Tweed, and Mariana Candido. I spent a memorable year as a fellow at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, where Meghan Sullivan's support bolstered me a great deal. Throughout, my students have kept me thinking about this project in new ways—especially Brigid Harrington, who worked as my research assistant, checking facts and gathering references for this book. South Bend has become my home thanks to friends like Sarah Shortall, Joshua Specht, Emily Remus, Randy Goldstein, Rebecca McKenna, James Lundberg, Katie Jarvis, Ian Johnson, Liang Cai, Korey Garibaldi, Francisco Robles, Pedro Aguilera-Mellado, Kate Uitti, Abi Ocobock, and Paul Ocobock—who went above and beyond reading this book's introduction at the last hour.

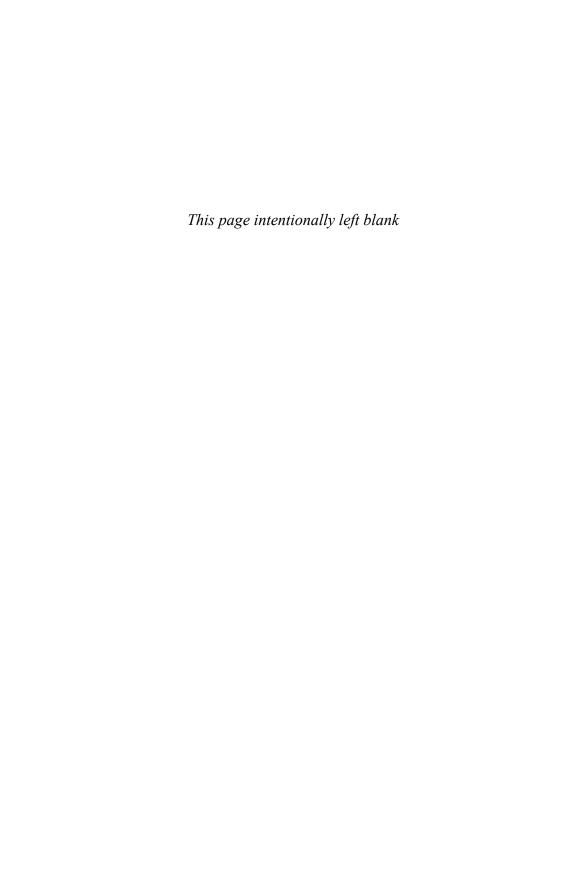
I thank Yale University Press, the anonymous reviewers, and my editor, Adina Popescu Berk, for steering the book through the publication process. Portions of chapters 3 and 6 appeared in an article published in the *Journal of the Early Republic*, which Andrew Shankman and the anonymous reviewers strengthened significantly. I also owe thanks to Joanna Hope Toohey, who took pictures for this book in the Archives Nationales, and to Emily McKnight and Elizabeth Casey for their careful copyediting. I am grateful for support from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, College of Arts and Letters, at the University of Notre Dame. While I cannot personally thank every interlocutor who has shaped my thinking along the way, I can confidently attest that exchanges in every conference, workshop, and seminar at which I presented were formative.

To my friends and family who have known me since before I began this project—especially Cristina Bautista, Bryan Thomas, Katherine Young, Lia Johnston, Megan Cook, and Reed VanBeveren—I can't thank you enough for listening to me ramble about the eighteenth century and vent about the writing process. A special thank you goes to Donna Canada-Smith, who spent a summer alongside me in the archives and very kindly read my full manuscript with a keen eye for detail.

Above all, I thank my family. My grandparents, Barbara and Milo Wood and Harry and Carol Carter, lived remarkable lives and I think of them often. My cousins Barbara Goodwin and Harvey Pye and my uncle

Tom Wood have been my cheerleaders for as long as I can remember. I have inspiring siblings in Carolyn, Jackson, and Logan Carter. They have been my constant companions and sources of inspiration as I watch them pursue their own dreams. And to my parents, David and Melinda Carter, who have given me every opportunity, believed in me always, and never questioned my path: this book is dedicated to them.

Not only this book but my entire life would not be what it is without Nikhil Menon. He read and improved every page of this manuscript, endured countless hours discussing democracy, and built me up through every episode of doubt. He has made my work better, my life more meaningful, and my world joyful. I cannot possibly thank him enough for his unflagging support and love. As I finished this book, we welcomed our daughter, Anjali Olivia, to the world. She is a bundle of energy and ray of light—she is everything.



DEMOCRACY IN DARKNESS

