ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A book, like character, is supposed to appear as a self-conscious act of individual creation. Like character, though, it is the product of countless influences and individuals. My own book is no exception. Most important, I want to thank Peter Onuf, who has been far more than my dissertation adviser. His inimitable style always made me feel that I was engaged in a grand adventure.

I also want to thank my family. They were among my first and most generous readers and never failed to encourage me. And I want to thank Heesun Chei for her unfailing support.

A number of friends have provided invaluable assistance over the years. Peter Kastor sharpened my thinking and my prose. Jenry Morsman devoted many hours to helping me revise the manuscript. Joanne Freeman assisted me in defining the central issues of the project. Brian Balogh provided sustenance in a variety of forms. And Peter Sheehy played too many roles to enumerate. I am grateful to all of them and thankful to be able to count them as my friends.

I am indebted to many people at the University of Virginia. In particular, Sophia Rosenfeld provided generous assistance. I would also like to thank Stephen Innes, John Stagg, Edward Ayers, J. E. Lendon, Joseph Kett, Alon Confino, Richard Rorty, Stephen Cushman, Michael Levenson, Marion Rust, and my colleagues in the Early American Seminar.

Numerous friends and colleagues helped sustain me throughout the research and writing of the book. My fellow members of the dissertation dinner group, Amy Murrell, Andy Morris, Josh Rothman, and Stephen Norris, helped me enormously. In addition, I would like to thank Barry Bienstock, Caroline Bartels, Doug Wilson, James Horn, Andy Lewis, and Amy Feely. Jan Lewis's insightful comments improved the book in countless ways, and I owe a great debt of gratitude to her. I want to extend a special thanks to John McPhee for teaching me lessons that I still try to apply every time I sit down to write.

My editors at Princeton University Press deserve the highest praise for their efforts, particularly Thomas LeBien and Brigitta van Rheinberg. I also want to thank my production editor, Dale Cotton, and my copy editor, Will Hively.

Earlier versions of chapters 1 and 4 were published in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* and *The Journal of the Early Republic* respectively, and I thank the editors of those publications for permission to reprint those chapters and for their editorial efforts.

A number of institutions provided financial support. The International Center for Jefferson Studies in conjunction with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation provided generous support on more than one occasion. The Intercollegiate Studies Institute also offered generous financial assistance. Additionally, the Gilder Lehrman Society, the Society of the Cincinnati, and The Horace Mann School helped fund my efforts.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS AND THE POLITICS OF CHARACTER

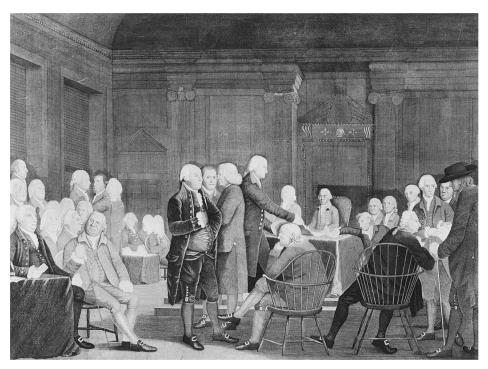


Figure 1. Congress Voting on Independence, engraved by Edward Savage (1906 strike from an early nineteenth-century plate). Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution.