

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I have accrued many intellectual debts in the writing of this book. First I thank those institutions whose generous financial support has enabled and enriched this project at every stage: Rice University's Dean of Humanities, the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, the Mellon Foundation, and Rutgers University's Center for Childhood Studies. People have been even more important to this book's completion, and I am honored as well as humbled to be able to count such a wealth of individuals as friends. The friends I made at Trinity University have continued to be invaluable to me through the last five years. Jack Kerker and Heather Sullivan have been infinitely patient, good-humored, and intelligent sounding boards, spirit lifters, and friends through it all, and my thanks to them go beyond words. A number of Rice University friends have been valued, if more recent, interlocutors: Sarah Ellenzweig, Michael Emerson, Alex Lichtenstein, Kirsten Ostherr, Anthony Pinn, and Allison Sneider have enthusiastically talked with me about or read portions of the project. The late Elizabeth Dietz exerted an enduring influence on this work and much else in my life. My thanks to the graduate students in the Mellon Hemispheric Americas Seminar whose smart reading of portions of this project made it stronger: Elizabeth Fenton, Dave Messmer, Cory Ledoux, Molley Robey, Gale Kenny, and Ben Wise. I am tremendously grateful for these local friends and for those sprinkled across the country

who, despite distance, have talked, cajoled, listened, suggested, and supported this book. Rachel Adams, Renee Bergland, Eileen Cleere, Teresa Goddu, Barbara Ladd, Robert Levine, Ross Posnock, Shirley Samuels, Xiomara Santamarina, Carol Singley, Rebecca Sterne, Kenneth Warren, Susan Wood, and Elizabeth Young have all reminded me of the value of this project at key moments, and their unquestioning assumption that I would finish made doing anything else unspeakable. The breathtaking wealth of good humor and brain power that all of these individuals put to my use leaves me more thankful than I can say. Family and friends exerted gentle but steady pressure to ensure this book's completion. Thank you Alan Levander, Emmanuel Abaya, Charles and Germaine Field, Mark and Djinni Field, Michele and Steve Vobach, Karen Flack, Tom Killian, Jennifer Slimowitz, Jan and Walker Stewart, and Sue and John Minkoff. Finally, I acknowledge David Minter's enduring and heartfelt belief in my work. It has been my great good fortune to know David. His generosity continues to inspire my thinking.

Parts of this book appeared in different form in *American Literature*, *American Literary History*, *Henry James Review*, and *Prospects*, and I am grateful for permission to reprint. At Duke University Press, the advice of Reynolds Smith and Sharon Torian, and the careful manuscript editing of Molly Robey and Pamela Francis, have been much appreciated.



