

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The chapters in this volume first took shape at a conference of the same name held at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies in 2016. As the coorganizers of that conference, we are deeply grateful to the center's director Dan Richter, associate director Amy Baxter-Bellamy, and administrator Barbara Natello for their generous support. The McNeil Center has long been one of the most vital institutions for the support of scholarship in the field of early American studies, and we are extremely proud that it was the venue for this timely and wide-ranging conference. Our agreement that it warranted development into a volume of essays was cemented by the generative, often provocative conversations that occurred both during and after the conference. For their essential contributions to those conversations, we join the contributors to this volume in thanking the other conference participants: Herman Bennett, Corey Capers, Lara Langer Cohen, Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, Marcy Dinius, Nicole Eustace, Jonathan Beecher Field, Carrie Hyde, Peter Jaros, Christopher Lukasik, Jen Manion, Meredith McGill, Joe Rezek, Jonathan Senchyne, David Waldstreicher, and Michael Warner. We thank the contributors not only for their excellent chapters but also for their responsiveness and patience throughout the process of making this volume.

We are also delighted that the volume found a home at Duke University Press and are especially grateful for the enthusiasm with which Elizabeth Ault greeted the project, and the editorial acumen that both she and Benjamin Kossak devoted to its development. Their knowledge and insights are woven into the fiber of this book. Warm thanks as well to the press's anonymous reviewers for their close, critical readings of the manuscript. Finally, we would like to thank Susan Albury for copyediting, Matthew Tauch for the terrific cover design, and Livia Tenzer for guiding the book through production. We would also like to thank Sarah Osment for indexing the book.

The first glimmer of this project appeared to Brian Connolly when he was a member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study, where time away from teaching and regular university service provided the perfect opportunity to think through its prospects with Max Cavitch, whose longtime service on the McNeil Center's executive and advisory councils also helped secure the conference venue. Brian would also like to thank the University of South Florida for a Publications Council Grant and his research assistant, Alissa Roy, for help preparing the final manuscript. Max would also like to thank the English Department of the University of Pennsylvania for their unstinting encouragement and support.