

Acknowledgments

My interest in historical ecology began when I was a child digging up old horseshoes in our garden and finding old stone walls in the woods where I played. I owe a great debt of gratitude to my parents, who were always enthusiastic supporters of my interest in science. Many people have contributed to the development of my ideas on historical ecology in addition to those who have more recently commented on various versions of this book and have contributed technical expertise. My teachers at the Baldwin School and at Denison University required me to write and to study the humanities as well as the sciences, preventing too narrow a focus. A year's study at the University of Paris introduced me to the residual impacts of people on the forests of France and to the idea that all forests have experienced some human impact and that these impacts have changed over time. Further studies at Duke and Rutgers Universities continued this emphasis on the interplay between people and their environments. This book grew directly from a joint biology and history graduate seminar I taught at Duke University in 1990, while I was supported by a National Science Foundation Visiting Professorship for Women. The lively discussions among students with different intellectual backgrounds inspired me to begin the long process of writing a text that would build on and disseminate this enthusiasm for interdisciplinary interactions.

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People and the Land through Time

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