

# Acknowledgments

It is a pleasure to thank the staff of the Strozier Library at Florida State University for their diligence in helping me track down and borrow obscure books and documents. A university endowment named for Lucius Moody Bristol, a Floridian whose professional interests in social systems and social justice resonate with my own, enabled me to travel to conduct research. Friends and critics who read the manuscript saved me from mistakes and pointed me in fruitful directions. I have been exceedingly lucky to share an office hallway with Amanda Porterfield, the most generous of colleagues and an inspirational scholar. Her detailed comments on an early draft led to many improvements, and her encouragements were much welcomed. John Kloos, with whom I have discussed religion in America for decades, delivered his typically painstaking reading and rereading and asked difficult questions. I acknowledge a long-term debt to him in the dedication of this book. I am grateful to Lauren Gray for her usual excellent job of indexing and proofread-

ing. I am grateful to the anonymous readers for the University of Chicago Press for their deep critical engagement and their detailed reports. My friend and editor Alan Thomas has been a great sounding board for ideas, a reliable guide to my implementing them, and an excellent person to hang out with. Lois Crum expertly copyedited the book. Sheila as always listened and poured wine and, knowing firsthand what is best when one is writing, talked me into pausing, now and again.