

More advance praise for *Becoming American under Fire*:

“In *Becoming American under Fire*, Christian G. Samito brings his legal and historical training effectively to bear on the complex struggles of Irish American and African American soldiers as they sought to craft and claim meaningful citizenship in the Civil War–era United States. Rich with detail, deeply researched, and carefully argued, this is an important contribution to the literature of the period.”

—ELIZABETH D. LEONARD, author of *Men of Color to Arms: Black Soldiers, Indian Wars, and the Quest for Equality*

“Historians are increasingly recognizing the importance of citizenship as a concept, and Christian G. Samito wisely takes a bottom-up approach, recognizing the agency of those displaced groups agitating for inclusion. *Becoming American under Fire* is a very good book on an important and timely topic.”

—CHRISTOPHER WALDREP, Jamie and Phyllis Pasker Professor of History, San Francisco State University, author of *Roots of Disorder and The Many Faces of Judge Lynch*

“*Becoming American under Fire* makes an important contribution to the history of American citizenship. Christian G. Samito demonstrates that the Civil War military service of Irish and African Americans led them to make demands for full inclusion and it created a moral indebtedness on the part of the native-born white population that made opposing those demands difficult. No other book illuminates this subject as well as this one does. No one else has related the progress of this development so well to the experience of the Civil War.”

—LAWRENCE F. KOHL, University of Alabama, author of *The Politics of Individualism*

Becoming American under Fire

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IRISH AMERICANS, AFRICAN AMERICANS,
AND THE POLITICS OF CITIZENSHIP
DURING THE CIVIL WAR ERA

Christian G. Samito

*Cornell University Press
Ithaca and London*

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First published 2009 by Cornell University Press
Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Samito, Christian G.

Becoming American under fire : Irish Americans, African Americans and the politics of citizenship during the Civil War era / Christian G. Samito.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-8014-4846-1 (cloth : alk. paper)

1. United States—History—Civil War, 1861–1865—Participation, Irish American.
2. United States—History—Civil War, 1861–1865—Participation, African American.
3. Irish American soldiers—History—19th century.
4. African American soldiers—History—19th century.
5. Irish Americans—Legal status, laws, etc.—History—19th century.
6. African Americans—Legal status, laws, etc.—History—19th century.
7. Citizenship—United States—History—19th century.
8. United States—Politics and government—1861–1865.

I. Title.

E540.I6S25 2009

973.7'415—dc22

2009023335

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Cloth printing

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To my parents, for their constant love and support

