

Acknowledgments

When I first began my studies of early New England, as a student of Alden T. Vaughan in the late 1960s, I was fascinated by John Davenport. My first published article was a study of the New Haven Colony and Oliver Cromwell, in which Davenport played a large role. I had hoped to write a biography of the clergyman, but publisher interest in such a project was lukewarm at best. I went on to write a number of other books on puritanism, and Davenport made a number of cameo appearances (as he often does in such works). But I never lost my interest in a book that would focus on the New Haven founder.

Following the completion of my biography *John Winthrop: America's Forgotten Founding Father* (2003), I was approached by Churchill Davenport, representing many members of the Davenport family who had long hoped for a biography of their ancestor. Over the following few years, Churchill, together with his brothers John and Stephen, spearheaded a family effort that created an independent fund at Millersville University of Pennsylvania to support my research on the topic. On various occasions they helped to organize gatherings that allowed me to share my findings and test some interpretations. At no point did any of the Davenports seek to shape or influence my findings. I can assert this, because I know that in some key matters, Churchill, who has deeply immersed himself in the sources, has a different understanding of events from that which is presented in this book. Their assistance has, however, made it possible to visit more sites and to read more sources than would otherwise have been possible in the time that it has actually taken. The Davenports come first among those needing to be thanked.