Acknowledgments

It is a pleasure to remember all of those persons who have in some way contributed to this book, and to thank them for their willingness to read, listen, criticize, and suggest. Likewise, I am grateful to the institutions and funders who provided support for this project, and who opened their libraries and archives to me.

A year of research at Harvard courtesy of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and a year as Research Associate at the American Antiquarian Society, partly funded by the American Philosophical Society, were crucial to my developing an understanding of religion and culture in antebellum America. I am especially grateful to John Hench and Joanne Chaison at the AAS for their willingness to think with me about what I needed to read, and for their enthusiasm for the project in its early stages. Grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Arizona State University made possible numerous visits to collections and provided valuable writing time as my research progressed.

I am grateful to colleagues and their institutions for invitations to present in seminars some of my ideas as they were developing, and for their criticisms of my work, including, at Harvard, Bill Hutchison, David Hall, and Larry Buell; at the University of Chicago, Gary Ebersole and Catherine Brekus; at the University of California Santa Barbara, David White and Cathy Albanese; at Oxford, Eric Rauchway and Daniel Walker Howe; at the School of Advanced Study at the University of London, Gary McDowell and David Cannadine; at the University of Wittenberg-Halle, Axel Schafer; and at the Roosevelt Center in the Netherlands, Cornelis van Minnen. Likewise I thank Peter Stearns, Eric Midelfort, John Demos, and Laurie Maffly-Kipp for valuable comments they made on papers and panel presentations at professional meetings.
Librarians and archivists at several institutions were enormously helpful, including those at the Houghton Library, Congregational Library, Boston Public Library, Boston Athenaeum, Massachusetts Historical Society, Schlesinger Library, and the Library of Congress. Dennis Isbell at my home institution's Fletcher Library proved a genius at finding publications relevant to my research, and arranging for the library to acquire them.

I am lucky enough to have had a series of excellent research assistants during the course of this project. I am grateful to Christy Nabhan, Steve Warren, Julie Walker, Janet Lee, and Becky Brady for their hard work and perceptive queries.

Among the many colleagues who listened thoughtfully to my reports of work-in-progress and suggested leads and linkages, or who offered me access to their own research, I am especially grateful to Tom Cutrer, Emily Cutrer, Richard Wentz, Tod Swanson, Tracy Fessenden, Dottie Broadburs, Becky Nicolaides, Peter Kaufman, David Hackett, Paul Lauter, John Kloos, Carlos Eire, Briane Turley, Rodger Payne, Ben Ray, Jan Shipps, Tracy Leavelle, Eric Crump, Scott Casper, Martin Marty, Ann Braude, Conrad Cherry, Richard D. Brown, Karen Kupperman, Philip Cash, and the late Jerry Brauer.

Peter Williams, Daniel Walker Howe, Marie Griffith, and Susan Gray read the entire manuscript and offered detailed criticisms and suggestions. I thank all of them, knowing what an investment of time and effort they made. I also thank a faculty presenter for the University of California Press, whose excellent suggestions helped me to shape the final manuscript.

I am fortunate to have worked with Reed Malcolm at the University of California Press. In the course of shepherding the manuscript through the publication process, he has managed through his congeniality and directness to keep the author remarkably at ease, a rare feat. Thanks also to my project editor, Jean McAneny, and to Sue Carter for her excellent copy editing. Janet Lee, indexer extraordinaire, worked her usual magic.

Thanks most of all to Sheila, who put her own writing on a back burner and took on an overload of parenting duties so that I could finish the book before the end of the millennium.