

## *Acknowledgments*

The often labeled “Revolutionary Decades” (1763–1783) in American history are replete with numerous and varied features that offer researchers examining the period a surfeit of new and revealing avenues for study. Supporting these quests there are countless repositories, both small and large, in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland, that, together with qualified searchers, can provide assistance to facilitate obtaining materials requisite to completing a final work.

In my own research and writing concerning these five Britons, I have employed many of these available tools for finishing this study. Without such a welcome, and varied “support system,” my final text could not have been completed. So with this fact in mind, I now give them their rightful credit.

In the United States, I found my principal source for both manuscript materials, as well as guidance, at the office of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin located at the Sterling Memorial Library of Yale University. Franklin, in his role as one of the American Commissioners in Paris, had contacts with the subjects of this work along with many other individuals in Great Britain. Editors Barbara Oberg and Ellen Cohn, and Assistant Editor Kate Ohno, provided me with innumerable manuscript documents and some very fine advice on pursuing my topic. Yale’s Bienecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library helped to augment information I had obtained in the Sterling Library. Other sites in Connecticut supplying relevant data were the Connecticut State Library and the Connecticut Historical Society, both located in Hartford.

In neighboring Massachusetts, two main locations providing me with information were Boston’s Massachusetts Historical Society and Harvard’s Widner Library in Cambridge. The former institution, under the Director William Fowler and Librarian Peter Drimmey, furnished me with substantial primary and secondary source material that related to the individuals described in this work. The Widner Library produced primary source items, including British newspapers and pamphlets that appeared during the Revolutionary decades. Also in the Bay State, the Library of the Peabody Essex Museum at Salem divulged facts concerning many of the New Englanders who were held captive in Britain. Also from this region, special individual credit is given to Mr. Richard L. Carl originally from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, for his sound advice and judgments.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Moving to the Mid-Atlantic states, my principal source of material was the venerable Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Reuben Harvey and William Hodgson had commercial dealings with this colonial seaport, and records of this fact exist at the Society. The Philadelphia Maritime Museum also held documents relating to that city's commerce with Great Britain. The Princeton University Library in New Jersey has manuscripts dealing with that Presbyterian school's relationship with the Reverend Thomas Wren.

In Washington, D.C., the prestigious Library of Congress supplied me with primary and secondary source writings related to my work. Also, in our nation's capital, I should extend my gratitude to Dr. Michael Crawford at the Naval Historical Center, who is editor of the multi-volume series, *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*. Thanks should also be given to Michael's wife Elva for her generous searches in the library of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Repositories from the southern United States should also receive due recognition. In Virginia, my appreciation goes to the Virginia Historical Society and the Virginia State Library, both located in Richmond. Reuben Harvey, one of my subjects, had a limited, albeit enlightening correspondence with that state's George Washington. The Henry Laurens Papers at the University of South Carolina contained useful information regarding this wealthy plantation owner who was President of the Continental Congress. Laurens had been captured at sea on a mission to Europe in 1780 and was subsequently imprisoned in the Tower of London. The Hodgson sketch will elaborate on how this London merchant worked to obtain his release.

The most essential as well as the largest amount of data to complete this study understandably was obtained from sources in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. From within these countries, the majority of my research efforts were achieved in England, and there, primarily in metropolis London. Inside that urban area, the Public Record Office in Kew, and its newspaper branch in Colindale, with their extensive manuscript holdings, became the most lucrative repositories employed during my research efforts. The British Library and the Guildhall Library also provided me with data. Other sites in London furnishing informative details were the Family Records Centre, the Wellcome Institute for the Study of Medicine, the London Metropolitan Archives, the National Maritime Museum, and the London Society of Genealogists. The staff of Dr. Williams's Library in Gordon Square helped guide my investigations into the careers of dissenting clerics Robert Heath and Thomas Wren. Significant details concerning the life of Griffith Williams were uncovered by Ms. Deborah Stock, Research Fellow at the University of London. Finally, information communicated by Ms. Tina Craig at the Royal College of Surgeons of England and Ms. Dee Cook from the Society of Apothecaries proved invaluable in unlocking much about the professional activities of Griffith Williams.

Outside of London, my foremost acknowledgments should be given to two long-standing and generous friends in Hampshire, Mrs. Sarah Quail and her

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

husband Anthony. Mrs. Quail, Head of Arts, Libraries, Museums and Records for Portsmouth City Council, and Anthony, who also works for the City Council, have continually provided this uncertain, often confused American with assistance and advice in his research endeavors. They also put me in contact with Mr. Gervase Belfield, a professional researcher in Winchester, who carefully ferreted out many worthwhile facts concerning the London career of Griffith Williams.

Several other venues in England merit credit. The Berkshire Record Office in Reading held manuscript records concerning the friendship of David Hartley and Thomas Wren, mainly regarding prisoner relief. Mr. Robin Hartley Russell, a resident of the county and a descendant of David Hartley, kindly permitted me to examine many of the extant papers of his ancestor. Ms. Elisabeth Stuart and Mr. Paul Brough of Plymouth's West Devon Record Office and the Devon Record Office in Exeter provided me with facts relating to Robert Heath and his labors. Mr. L.C. Jarman of Keswick, the Cumbria Library in Keswick, and the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle provided me with materials that dealt with the family background and early life of Thomas Wren. Other locales in England from which I gleaned information were the Yorkshire West Riding Office and Archive services in Wakefield and Bradford, the Bodelian Library Oxford, the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford, and Norfolk Record Office in Norwich, and the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich.

My acknowledgments in Ireland would begin in the counties of Northern Ireland. There, Mr. John McCabe of Stoneford proved a valuable guide for using the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in nearby Belfast. To the south, in the Republic of Ireland, I obtained very rewarding data regarding the family background and career of Reuben Harvey from the Religious Society of Friends Library in Dublin. Also in Dublin, pursuing the same search, I consulted the National Library of Ireland and the Public Record Office of Ireland. Further information concerning Mr. Harvey and the Irish Quakers of his day was received from the Cork County Library and the Cork Genealogical Society in Cork City.

My sources in Wales were used for obtaining materials relating to the somewhat indistinct early life of Griffith Williams. There, I would offer thanks to Mr. E.A. Hackett of the Dyfed Family History Society for helping me narrow down Williams's identity since the name was rather common in eighteenth-century Wales. My other sources for related information in this locale were the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, the Dyfed Record Office in Carmarthen, and the Dyfed Archives in Carmarthenshire.

My concluding credits should be directed to institutions and individuals in the Chicago area who facilitated my endeavors. At Loyola University Chicago, my appreciation is directed to the staff of the Cudahy Library and the many members of the Loyola history department who offered advice and constructive criticism. Similar appreciation is given to the venerable and richly stocked Newberry Library. Their holdings proved extremely valuable in my research. The Chicago branch of the National Archives and Record Service supplied

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

me with primary source documents, many of them through their microfilm collection of the Papers of the Continental Congress. Evanston's Northwestern University Library and the library of Garrett Theological Seminary, located on the university campus, kindly allowed my rummaging through their holdings. The staff of the Family History Center, located in Wilmette's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and their tie-in with the Salt Lake City, Utah Mormon genealogical services, proved a marvelous tool in tracking family backgrounds of some of my subjects. Also in Wilmette, thanks to Mrs. Natalie F. Hector for her most generous work and support in typing this manuscript.

The aforementioned research facilities, the individuals providing me with investigative services, and my helpful academic colleagues aside, I would especially wish to offer my gratitude on a more personal level. My inquiries and writings concerning the careers of these five inconspicuous, "middling-level" Britons who befriended the American rebel cause was accomplished intermittently over a two-decade period. During these years, I experienced the rewarding feeling of obtaining insights into not only their lives, but the period in which they lived in Britain. But simultaneously, the outside world in which I lived witnessed the growth of two fine sons into manhood. For this more rewarding fact, my wife Kayla deserves the greatest credit. And it was chiefly through her assistance, insightful criticism, patience, and understanding that this project has reached completion. And whatever its merits, this work is deservedly dedicated to her.