

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The last four years were a rather peculiar time to write about the so-called “peculiar institution.” Two unconnected events occurred in March 2020: I began work on this topic after being appointed as one of the two Research Associates for the University of Cambridge’s Legacies of Enslavement Inquiry, and the United Kingdom enforced the first lockdown for the COVID-19 pandemic. The fact that this book exists at all, therefore, should also be credited to the assistance and support of numerous colleagues, friends, and family.

I want to first thank colleagues who have been integral to the Cambridge inquiry from its inception to completion. Sabine Cadeau, who, along with this author, were the lead researchers for the project, has been a wonderful friend and collaborator throughout the trials and tribulations of the inquiry. Martin Millett, the fearless Chair of the Advisory Group, has many gifts: sage wisdom, kindness, patience, and a magical ability to make things happen in the tangled bureaucratic webs of Cambridge. Bronwen Everill and Nick Guyatt have bravely persevered through sections or offshoots of this book and have been an incredible source of support and encouragement throughout, as they have been for so many early career researchers before me. Sujit Sivasundaram and Peter Mandler were generous with their time and patience as a text on around two-dozen colleges and multiple centuries of Atlantic history glacially took shape. Sarah Pearsall shared her wisdom at the early stages of the project, and her guidance has helped me to find my voice as a historian. From the Cambridge Advisory Group, I also want to thank Ash Amin, Adam Branch, Mark Elliott, Toni Fola-Alade, Mónica Moreno Figueroa, Mark Purcell, Ángel Gurría-Quintana, Sharon Mehari, Priscilla Mensah, Toby Green, Meleisa Ono-George, Olivette Otele, and Diana Paton. Stephen Toope, Cambridge’s former Vice-Chancellor, generously supported the research. At Caius College, I have a debt of gratitude to Annabel Brett, Melissa Calaresu, James Cox, Michelle Ellefson, Michael Joseph, Pippa Rogerson, and Ted Tregear.

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Returning to where I started, in March 2020, I should mention another much more important and noteworthy life moment than a multi-year pandemic or an esoteric academic project: I first moved in with my then partner and now wife, Evelyn Strobe. Her love inspires me every day. I want to thank her with all my heart.