Acknowledgements

This book would not have happened without the help of many people in many different ways. The first of them are my PhD supervisors, Professor Chris Wrigley and Dr Nick Baron. Your willingness to very often meet and talk about my research, read whatever I sent you, and provide useful guidance and advice throughout all three years of the PhD, made those three years as rewarding, productive and stress-free as any PhD can possibly be. I must also thank Paul Taillon, my supervisor at Honours and Masters level at the University of Auckland, who read drafts on occasion and remained incredibly supportive even though I was no longer your student and not even in the same country, and my external examiner, Neville Kirk, whose comments on this book helped it to assume its final shape. In all cases I have been given the best possible understanding of what it means to be a historian and I hope that any future students I might supervise will learn as much from me as I have from you.

Without my parents, Julia and Graham, this book would also not have been possible. You provided me with an early love of reading and learning, and instilled in me an interest in current and past events. Without all of those I would not have written this book. Your financial support during my PhD studies made this research possible, and you deserve thanks as well as my love. My friends in New Zealand, and friends I made in Nottingham – Anas, Dominik, Mike, Laura, Maria and Christeena, amongst many others – also kept me sane during the three years and made it such an enjoyable experience. Thanks especially to Michael, Josh, Jeremy and Jou-an, Paula and Philip, and Richard, Julie, Kirk, Claire and Dan, for putting me up on my many trips to London and sharing the odd drink or two. There are too many other people to name here but I thank you all. And finally, to Elizabeth, who demonstrated amazing patience with me during the last several months and kept me going. I love you.
I would also like to thank the Economic History Society, the Society for the Study of Labour History and the Royal Historical Society for providing me with the necessary funds to conduct research in the United States, and the University of Nottingham for providing me with an International Research Excellence Scholarship that allowed me to study in the UK. Thank you as well to the archivists at the Modern Records Centre at Warwick, the Catholic University of America, the British Library, National Library of Scotland, the Library of Congress, and the Local History Centres at Liverpool, Birmingham, Sandwell, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall, and Rotherham, for making the task of research that much easier. Thanks to Valida and Chris Walker for making my stay in Washington DC so enjoyable and productive. Finally, I would like to thank the editors at Liverpool University Press and Alison Welsby in particular for your friendly and efficient help in the preparation of this book. Though this book bears my name, it was only possible because of a wide cast of people. I thank you all once again.