ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

One of the questions I have been asked most frequently in the course of working on this book is how I came to select the history of the militias and National Guards as the subject of my research. The answer that I have always been pleased to give is that my interest in the militias and the National Guards developed when I was a student at Kalamazoo College, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, while taking my required junior seminar as a history major. I was just back from my foreign study experience in Madrid, and the seminar that year was devoted to the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era. I loved my time in Spain and decided to select the Spanish American War for my research paper. My professor, David Strauss, suggested that I check out the local depository of the archives of the state of Michigan. I found almost four hundred letters in their Spanish American War collection. That this remarkable collection was available to me was a twist of fate. One of the handful of National Guard regiments to make it to Cuba in time to participate in the brief period of fighting on the island was from southwestern Michigan, where my college is located.

Those letters were my first real contact with extensive primary documents, and I found them engrossing. I was completely taken in by the young men who wrote home to the sugar-beet farming fathers of Paw Paw and their shopkeeping mothers of Grand Haven, detailing their newly acquired, first-hand experiences with war. I decided to make these young men the subject of my senior paper, and I approached one of the archivists at the main state archive in East Lansing for assistance with my project. When I told him of my plans, he told me that everyone knew about the Michigan 33rd and suggested that I look into the Michigan Naval Militia.

So I did. What I discovered in the process was not only a love of primary research, but much that interested me in this particular story as well. I became fascinated that the young men of privilege (for that is who formed the Detroit companies of the Michigan Naval Militia) should devote such time and effort in peacetime to creating a naval reserve that was clearly unsought by the Navy or its supporters in Washington, DC.
Later on, the state of Michigan archivist was kind enough to remember me and my project, and he invited me to submit a proposal to the Michigan sesquicentennial military history lecture series. Late in my senior year I gave my first academic paper to an audience that consisted of two National Guard officers, my parents and siblings, and one good friend, Molly Horrigan, who hung around over spring break to hear me. Professor John Wickstrom welcomed me back to “K” many years later as a newly minted Ph.D., for which I will always be grateful.

I carried my interest in the phenomenon of the late-nineteenth century National Guards into graduate school at the University of Chicago and in time decided to make the Guards the subject of my dissertation. My advisers, Kathleen Conzen and Michael Geyer, were quick to pick up on my enthusiasm and offered invaluable advice, criticism, and encouragement, from proposal through defense and after. I owe the most profound thanks to Kathleen Conzen for her guidance and support over the course of many years. During my time at Chicago, I also received help and counsel from Neil Harris, Tom Holt, Rashid Khalildi, Ron Inden, Rachel Fulton, Bill Novak, and Leora Ausslander. George Chauncey read a few chapters-in-progress and gave me some excellent suggestions. I also owe a debt of gratitude to the participants of the various workshops of which Chicago’s graduate program is justly proud. The participants and speakers from Feminist Theory Workshop that ran in the late 1980s and early 1990s shaped my thinking more than I realized at the time, and to Sheri Ortner in particular I want to say, many, many years later, that I understand now the purpose of reclaiming the hag, in a way that was impossible for someone as young as I was then. I also owe tremendous thanks to the members of the Graduate Student Reading and Writing Workshop and the Social History Workshop, whose comments much improved the chapters I submitted there, and contributed to my growth as a scholar and an historian.

Many friends and fellow students read and reread portions, or the entirety, of the dissertation. I must especially thank Alexandra Gillen, from whom I learned the basics of the Little Red Schoolhouse program, and whose generous time and commentary on my work I can never fully acknowledge or repay. I would also like to thank Maureen Harp, Kate Chavigny, Julie Hessler, Nyan Shah, Elizabeth Dale, Kathy Brosnan, Mort Ames, Lendol Calder, and Fred Bietler. I am also grateful to Nahum Chandler, Kate Hamerton, Alex Dracolby, Andrew Cohen, David Tanenhaus, and Mark Schmeller. Sally Schuler and Stuart Glennen offered friendship and so much more, and Sally began my very first databases, a gift of her time that has grown substantially in importance to this project over the years.
Beyond Chicago, I would like to thank in particular John Shy, David Montgomery, and Jerry Cooper—all of whom provided information and encouragement at crucial moments. Military historians have never known quite what to do with me, as a social historian interested in the peacetime National Guards, but they have nonetheless offered help and support along the way, particularly at The Ohio State University Graduate Student Conference in Military History. Labor historians have also been stumped, more than once, by my interest in the “bad guys,” but again they have offered support and advice when I needed it, and I would like to thank in particular the participants and organizers of the Pullman Centennial History Conference, from whom I learned so much. I would also like to thank Jodie Vandenberg-Daves, Kurt Liechtle, Victor Macias-Gonzalez, Mari Trine, and Sharon Wood their conversation, friendship, and advice, as historians and as colleagues. In Minnesota I have profited from the suggestions of the Twin Ports Historians, including Neil Storch, Pat Maus, and Dick Huddleston. I am also grateful to Tim Hoogland of the Minnesota Historical Society for his support and encouragement.

The research for my dissertation was supported by a U.S. Army Center for Military History Doctoral Fellowship, and by the Harry Barnard Dissertation Fellowship of the University of Chicago. I also received much help from the staff of the National Guard Association of the United States, whose headquarters are located in Washington, DC. Archivists at the Illinois State Archives, the Chicago Historical Society, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library, the National Archives—particularly at the old Suitland Annex—all provided assistance and encouragement at key moments.

A small research grant from Kalamazoo College, and a more substantial Grant-in-Aid from the University of Minnesota allowed me to complete the databases that undergird a number of my conclusions about who was in the ING over the years, and I am very grateful for the support. I would like to thank all of the students who handled data entry over the years, in particular Sam Litman who did far more than most because of his generosity of spirit and his interest in the project’s outcome.

As the project wended its way from dissertation to book, I have many more people to thank. Jerry Cooper’s extensive knowledge of the National Guards enriched my own when he offered his support and his insightful commentary as a manuscript reviewer. Colleagues at the University of Minnesota Duluth, whose friendship, counsel, and advice
have enriched the book include Anna-Marie Roos, Mitra Emad, Deborah Plechner, Larry Knopp, Krista Twu, Pat Farrell, Scott Laderman, and Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson. Members of the Feminist Pedagogy workshop, including Beth Bartlett, Maureen Tobin-Stanley, Joan Varney, and Gesa Zinn have been a source of strength and wisdom, for which I am very grateful. Stacey Stark, director of the Geographic Information Sciences Laboratory at the University of Minnesota Duluth, prepared the maps that appear in the appendix of this volume. I must also thank Sandy Crooms and Maggie Diehl at The Ohio State University Press, who took my manuscript and turned it into the book before you.

Finally I must thank my family for all their support—emotional and otherwise—over the years. My aunt and uncle, Mary and Mike Curzan, housed and fed me more than once as I visited the national archives, and they offered excellent advice and friendship along the way. My siblings, John, Mary, and Rachel, have been excellent cheerleaders. My parents, Robert and Susan Hannah, made all of this possible—and to them I offer my deepest and most heartfelt thanks.

My husband, Drew Digby, read every page of this book so many times that he knows it as well as, if not better than, I do myself, and his loving criticism and commentary have to a large degree shaped the final product. And last, but hardly least, our sons Shaw and Bruck have given me much joy, even as their lives have been shaped by the rhythms of this book.