American literature in the nineteenth century is often divided into two halves, neatly separated by the Civil War. In Nineteenth-Century American Literature and the Long Civil War, Cody Marrs argues that the war is a far more elastic boundary for literary history than has frequently been assumed. Focusing on the later writings of Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass, Herman Melville, and Emily Dickinson, this book shows how the war took imaginative shape across, and even beyond, the nineteenth century, inflecting literary forms and expressions for decades after 1865. These writers, Marrs demonstrates, are best understood not as antebellum or postbellum figures but as transbellum authors who cipher their later experiences through their wartime impressions and prewar ideals. This book is a bold, revisionary contribution to debates about temporality, periodization, and the shape of American literary history.

Cody Marrs teaches English at the University of Georgia.
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(continued following the Index)
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AMERICAN LITERATURE
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CODY MARRS

University of Georgia
For Kristin, Harper, and Caleb
Contents

List of Illustrations page x
Acknowledgments xi

Introduction: Transbellum American Literature 1
1. Walt Whitman’s Dialectics 23
2. Frederick Douglass’s Revisions 59
3. Herman Melville’s Civil Wars 90
4. Emily Dickinson’s Erasures 122
Coda: Other Nineteenth Centuries 153

Notes 159
Index 189
Illustrations

1. Title page of *Leaves of Grass* (1860)  page 46
2. “The Great Strike – The Sixth Maryland Regiment fighting its way through Baltimore” (1877)  53
7. Frederic Edwin Church, *The Parthenon* (1871)  119
8. Page from Richard S. Fisher’s *Chronological History of the Civil War in America* (1863)  133
9. Emily Dickinson, “Not knowing when the Dawn will come”  149
Acknowledgments

In almost countless ways, this book is the result of other people’s generosity. At UC Berkeley, where this project first took root, Sam Otter guided me with such wisdom and care, I hardly know how to thank him. The following pages owe a great deal to Sam’s intellect, wit, and encouragement to write – even in this day and age – about authorial careers. I’m also grateful for the many people at Berkeley who made life as a graduate student there far richer than it had any right to be: Malik Ali, Aaron Bady, Stephen Best, Munia Bhaumik, Natalia Cecire, Paul Hurh, Marisa Palacios Knox, Colleen Lye, Ted Martin, Annie McClanahan, Megan Pugh, Swati Rana, Scott Saul, Randall Smith, and Bryan Wagner.

I wrote most of this book after moving to Athens. At the University of Georgia, I’ve been fortunate to work with several people who are friends as well as colleagues. Doug Anderson’s sagacity and friendship have been utterly crucial to me, and to this book. To Casie LeGette, Brett Szymik, Aaron Santesso, and Esra Santesso: thank you for all the late-night desserts; I don’t know what I’d do without you. I’m also grateful for my exceptional colleagues who make Park Hall everything that it is: Nicholas Allen, Michelle Ballif, Cynthia Turner Camp, Nathan Camp, Roxanne Eberle, Miriam Jacobson, Tricia Lootens, John Lowe, Barbara McCaskell, Richard Menke, Ron Miller, Adam Parkes, Ed Pavlic, Christopher Pizzino, Jed Rasula, Channette Romero, Susan Rosenbaum, Hugh Ruppersburg, Chloe Wigston Smith, Andrew Zawacki, and Maggie Zurawski.

This book was supported by fellowships and grants from the Willson Center for the Humanities, the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Newberry Library, and, at an earlier stage, the Townsend Center for the Humanities. Those funds provided me with the time and opportunity to write the following pages. I am also indebted to the editors who allowed me to reprint two earlier essays, and to the anonymous readers who responded to those essays. Parts of Chapter 1 first appeared in Arizona Quarterly 67.1 (Spring 2011), pgs. 47–72, under the title “Whitman’s
Acknowledgments

Latencies: Hegel and the Politics of Time in *Leaves of Grass.*” It is reprinted here by permission of the Regents of The University of Arizona. Parts of Chapter 3 first appeared in *American Literature* 82.1 (March 2010), pgs. 91–119, under the title “A Wayward Art: Battle-Pieces and Melville’s Poetic Turn.” It is reprinted here by permission of the publisher, Duke University Press.

This book also owes much to my fellow Americanists scattered around the globe, in the intellectual archipelagoes that make up our scholarly world. Philip Barnard and Dorice Williams Elliott first showed me how to read closely and widely. My collaborations with Christopher Hager, both past and present, have shaped this book and enriched my life. *Nineteenth-Century American Literature and the Long Civil War* is in many respects but a long-winded “thank you” to Chris. Coleman Hutchison, who was one of my readers, provided a brilliant response that has strengthened and sharpened my arguments; and another reader, whom I don’t know, provided incisive feedback for which I’m grateful. The later parts of Chapter 3 grew out of a talk I gave at Emory University. For that, I owe a hearty thanks to Munia Bhaumik, Michael Elliott, Michael Moon, and Benjamin Reiss. Ian Finseth and Eliza Richards also responded to early, embryonic parts of this book, and their thoughts have anchored my own. I’ve also benefited, in one way or another, from the intelligence, kindness, and camaraderie of scholars far and wide. People like John Bryant, Kathleen Diffley, Betsy Erkkila, Jennifer Greiman, Jeffrey Insko, Michael Jonik, Robert S. Levine, Timothy Marr, Justine Murison, Michelle Neely, Basem Ra’ad, Matthew Rebhorn, Julia Stern, Ivy Wilson, and Brian Yothers make me feel lucky to be part of this profession. I also want to thank Ray Ryan and Ross Posnock for their enthusiastic support of this project, and Caitlin Gallagher, who has skillfully guided me through the production process.

Last, but certainly not least, I thank my family for all that they have given me, and for all that they continue to give. My parents, Betty and Monte, encouraged me to dream, read, and write, even when it seemed incredibly impractical. My extended family – Jay, Kim, Don, and Lynda – have been unfailingly kind and bighearted. But I owe a special thanks, one that I cannot even begin to put into words, to Kristin, Harper, and Caleb, to whom this book is dedicated. You – each of you – are my world and my cosmos. Anything worth doing must be done with love, and I have that in spectacular abundance, thanks to you.