

Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Acknowledgements | VII |
| Note on Editorial Procedures and Dates | XI |
| Abbreviations and Short Titles | XII |
| 1. Introduction..... | 1 |
| 1.1. Goals | 5 |
| 1.2. Historiography | 11 |
| 1.3. Sources | 14 |
| 2. Backgrounds: Historical, Social, Cultural | 21 |
| 2.1. The Beginning of the Eighteenth Century..... | 21 |
| 2.2. Mid-Century and Revolution | 40 |
| 2.3. Under the New Nation | 59 |
| 3. Arms in Early America | 70 |
| 3.1. Probate Records in Historical Research..... | 70 |
| 3.2. Probate Records in Massachusetts and South Carolina..... | 76 |
| 3.3. Project Design, Rationale and Data Collection..... | 83 |
| 3.4. Analysis and Results | 87 |
| 3.5. Conclusions: What Does This Data Tell Us? | 94 |
| 4. "Arma sunt necessaria": Guns and their Meaning in Eighteenth-Century Massachusetts and South Carolina | 96 |
| 4.1. Hunting..... | 97 |
| 4.2. Guns and the Military..... | 107 |
| 4.3. Crime and Self-Defense | 121 |
| 4.4. Duels | 130 |
| 4.5. Social Aspects | 137 |
| 4.6. Celebration | 141 |
| 4.7. Limitations of and Opposition to Gun Use | 143 |
| 4.8. Conclusion..... | 148 |
| 5. Constitutional Precursors to the Second Amendment..... | 151 |
| 5.1. English Origins | 151 |
| 5.2. Colonial Americans and the English Right to Arms..... | 152 |
| 5.3. American Constitutions | 156 |
| 6. Gun Culture, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights | 162 |
| 6.1. The Right to Bear Arms in the Constitutional Convention..... | 163 |
| 6.2. Beginning the Ratification Process..... | 164 |
| 6.3. Pennsylvania..... | 165 |
| 6.4. Massachusetts | 167 |
| 6.5. South Carolina | 174 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 6.6. Achieving Ratification | 181 |
| 6.7. Constitutional Amendments and the First Federal Elections | 188 |
| 6.8. Congress and the Bill of Rights | 196 |
| 6.9. Ratifying the Bill of Rights..... | 201 |
| 6.10. Conclusion: Guns and Gun Culture during the Ratification of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights..... | 203 |
| 7. Conclusion | 206 |
| Appendix I: Example of a Probate Inventory..... | 214 |
| Appendix II: Maps | 216 |
| Appendix III: Universes and Sample Sizes | 218 |
| Bibliography | 219 |