Contents

	Preface	ix	
	PART ONE NOAH WEBSTER'S BATTLES		
1	British Mockery and American Disdain	3	
2	Noah Webster: "The Wildest Innovator"	21	
3	Webster's First Dictionary	41	
4	Displacing Delilah	53	
5	The Lexicographer's Fifth Column	83	
6	Tea and Copyright: Goodrich Takes Over	102	
7	Spelling Wars: The Rise of Lyman Cobb	112	
8	The "Common Thief"	121	
9	Webster's Decline	145	
PART TWO THE MERRIAMS AT WAR			
10	Taking Webster out of Webster: From Family Feuds to the Merriam Brothers	161	
11	Waiting for Worcester	178	

12	The Bohn Affair	197
13	Converse's Complaint	214
14	Children, Money, and "Trash"	223
15	High Stakes: "Have We a National Standard of Language?"	234
16	The "Terrible Rival": Worcesterian Resurgence	250
17	The Merriams Triumphant: "Worcester! Worcester! All Change for Webster!"	274
	Conclusion	288
	Appendix A: The "Webster" Brand	291
	Appendix B: Four Centuries of Selected Dictionaries of the English Language	294
	Appendix C: Publishing Terms	302
	Appendix D: "The Spelling Bee at Angels (Reported by Truthful James)," by Bret Harte	304
	Acknowledgments	307
	List of Abbreviations	309
	Notes	311
	Bibliography	333
	Index	349