In this provocative book, Robert Harrison provides new insight into grassroots Reconstruction after the Civil War and into the lives of those most deeply affected, the newly emancipated African Americans. Harrison argues that the District of Columbia, far from being marginal to the Reconstruction story, was central to Republican efforts to reshape civil and political relations, with the capital a testing ground for congressional policy makers. The book describes the ways in which federal agencies such as the Army and the Freedmen’s Bureau attempted to assist Washington’s freed population and shows how officials struggled to address the social problems resulting from large-scale African American migration. It also sheds new light on the political processes that led to the abandonment of Reconstruction and the onset of Black disenfranchisement. Finally, Washington during Civil War and Reconstruction is a valuable case study of municipal government in an era when Americans faced the challenges of a new urban-industrial society.

Dr. Robert Harrison (1944–2007) was a member of the Department of History and Welsh History at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, for more than thirty years. His numerous publications on nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century American politics, particularly on Congress and the District of Columbia, have been a significant contribution to the field. They include State and Society in Twentieth-Century America (1997) and Congress, Progressive Reform, and the New American State (Cambridge 2004). An active participant in the research community of American history, Dr. Harrison was a long-standing member of the British Association for American Studies and was closely involved with the British American Nineteenth Century Historians, organizing two major conferences on American history in 2000 and 2004.
Washington during Civil War and Reconstruction

Race and Radicalism

ROBERT HARRISON
University of Wales, Aberystwyth
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Abbreviations

AQMR  Annual, Quarterly and Monthly Reports
CCF  Consolidated Correspondence File
CG, 39.1  *Congressional Globe*, 39th Congress, 1st Session
CR, 45.2  *Congressional Record*, 45th Congress, 2nd Session
fn  frame number
Ho. Exec. Doc.  House of Representatives Executive Document
LR  Letters Received
LS  Letters Sent
NARA  National Archives and Records Administration
REO  Reports from Employment Offices
RG  Record Group
SO  Special Orders
ULR  Unregistered Letters Received
Foreword

Robert Harrison died on May 6, 2007. Robert’s last book, *Washington during Civil War and Reconstruction: Race and Radicalism* is published here, with some minor emendations, just as it was left at the time of his death. Once it was evident that a completed volume existed, it was immediately decided that Robert’s publication plans should be pursued. In realizing those plans, a number of people have been extremely helpful and accommodating. In particular, Professor Martin Crawford, of the American Studies Department at Keele, offered both expert advice and conscientious regard for the volume’s production; staff at Cambridge University Press, especially Eric Crahan at the publisher’s New York office and Barbara Walthall, project manager at Aptara, Inc., also provided great encouragement and their full support for the publication.

Robert lived near Aberystwyth, in Llandre, with his wife, Jean, and his sons, Matthew and Stephen, for more than thirty years. He had been a member of the Department of History and Welsh History at Aberystwyth University. From his native Sunderland, where his mother, Beatrice, lived until 2010, Robert Harrison earned his first degree at St. John’s College, Cambridge, in 1966, and completed his Ph.D. in 1971; in the next year he took up his post at Aberystwyth. His numerous publications on nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century American politics, particularly on Congress and on the District of Columbia, have been a significant contribution to his field. They include two volumes on American politics in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, *State and Society in Twentieth-Century America* (1997) and *Congress, Progressive Reform, and the New American State* (2004), as well as a number of associated articles.
x

Foreword

Robert’s peers remember him as an excellent colleague, entirely dependable and calmly efficient, with a gloriously dry sense of humor. He is greatly missed by all who knew him: family, friends, colleagues, and students alike. It is a great pleasure to know that this, his last piece of research, is to be published just as he left it.

Phillipp R. Schofield
Aberystwyth
November 1, 2010