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Gay L. Gullickson

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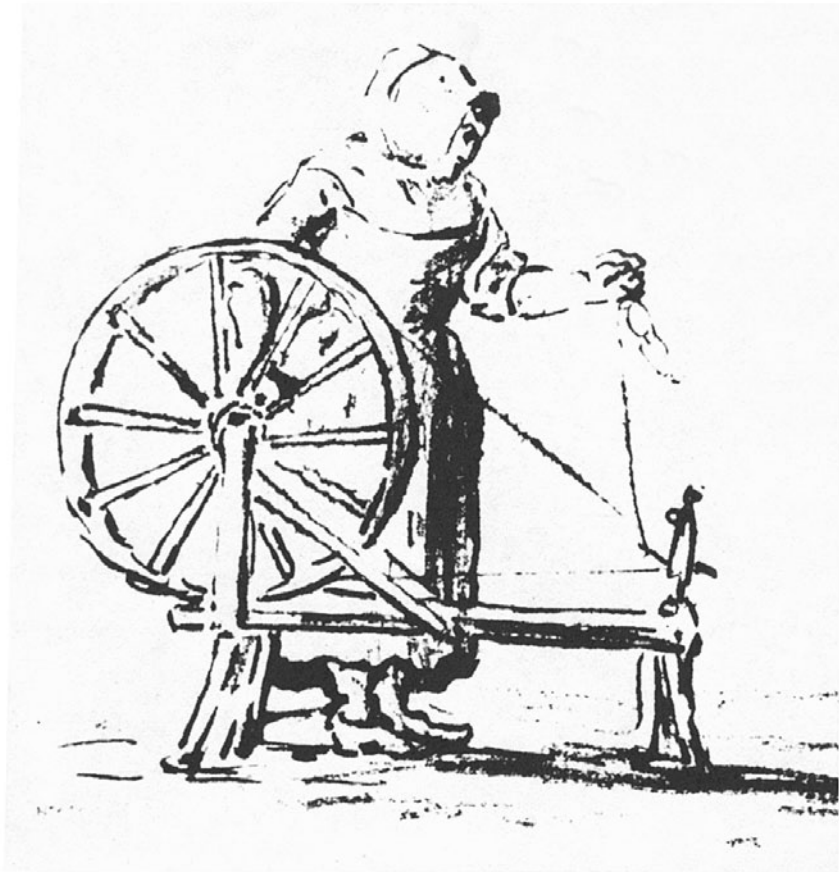
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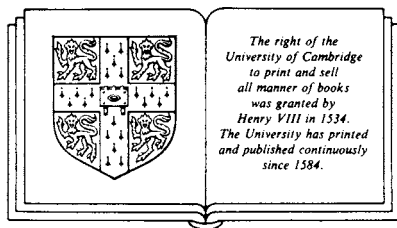
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Spinners and weavers of Auffay

Rural industry and the sexual division of labor in
a French village, 1750 – 1850



Gay L. Gullickson
The University of Maryland



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For my parents
Gene and Margaret Gullickson

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Preface



This study began ten years ago when, having survived my Ph.D. exams, I began to search for a dissertation topic. My desire to study changes in women's economic and family roles in connection with some aspect of industrialization gradually developed into a study of cottage industry and agriculture in Normandy, as one research question led to another and I moved from general research in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris to more focused study in the Archives Départemental de la Seine-Maritime in Rouen.

Many people helped me along the way, and I am grateful to them all. Joan Wallach Scott, who directed my dissertation, encouraged my interest in the history of women, helped me find my way through the French archives, provided thoughtful and just criticism, discussed ideas, and constantly challenged me to become a better historian. George V. Taylor kindled my interest in French history in his graduate seminars. Franklin Mendels graciously endured my criticisms of proto-industrial theory and supported my work by encouraging me to submit paper proposals for international conferences on proto-industrialization. James Lehning introduced me to the computer, shared his ideas about proto-industrialization, and commented wisely on the manuscript in its final stages. Joseph Carens supported my desire to study history and discussed ideas with me as I worked them through. The staff and archivists of the Archives Départemental de la Seine-Maritime brought me one dusty tome after another, searched out misfiled documents, and even found me a room in which to type, an incredible luxury in an archive. Richard Herr, Rachel Fuchs, and Elaine Kruse read parts of the manuscript and improved its clarity. Susannah Gourevitch helped me find my voice as a writer. My colleagues at the University of Maryland, College Park, provided me with a forum for discussions of my research and inspired me through the example of their own work. Peggy and Van Quinn cheerfully offered me their guest room and endured my frantic work schedule on my flying trips to use the University of North Carolina computer. Darlene King transformed my typescript and handwritten notes into a perfectly typed manuscript, and cheered me on by telling me she thought it was interesting.

The Georges Lurcy Foundation supported my initial research in France. A National Endowment for the Humanities summer fellowship to attend a seminar on "Agriculture and Rural Society" directed by Richard

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Herr at the University of California, Berkeley, gave me a chance to discuss ideas in a congenial and challenging academic setting. An Andrew Mellon postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh gave me the time to turn the dissertation into a manuscript and funded further research in France in 1981–82. Grants from the General Research Board of the University of Maryland, College Park, enabled me to polish and improve the manuscript. Portions of Chapters 3, 5, 6, and 7 have appeared in *French Historical Studies*, Vol. XII; the *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. XLIII; and *Peasant Studies*, Vol. IX.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents, to whom this book is dedicated, for encouraging me from childhood to pursue the things that interested me, for providing me with a good education, and for giving me their unfailing love and moral support.

I am, of course, responsible for any errors of fact or interpretation that remain in the book.

G.L.G.