

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-09551-9 - Women Prophets and Radical Protestantism in the British
Atlantic World, 1640–1730
Elizabeth Bouldin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

**WOMEN PROPHETS AND RADICAL PROTESTANTISM IN
THE BRITISH ATLANTIC WORLD, 1640–1730**

This book examines the stories of radical Protestant women who prophesied between the British Civil Wars and the Great Awakening. It explores how women prophets shaped religious and civic communities in the British Atlantic world by invoking claims of chosenness. Elizabeth Bouldin interweaves detailed individual studies with analysis that summarizes trends and patterns among women prophets from a variety of backgrounds throughout the British Isles, colonial North America, and continental Europe. Highlighting the ecumenical goals of many early modern dissenters, *Women Prophets and Radical Protestantism in the British Atlantic World, 1640–1730* places female prophecy in the context of major political, cultural, and religious transformations of the period. These include transatlantic migration, debates over toleration, the formation of Atlantic religious networks, and the rise of the public sphere. This wide-ranging volume will appeal to all those interested in European and British Atlantic history and the history of women and religion.

ELIZABETH BOULDIN is Assistant Professor of History at Florida Gulf Coast University. Her work has appeared in *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* and *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Atlantic History*.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-09551-9 - Women Prophets and Radical Protestantism in the British
Atlantic World, 1640–1730

Elizabeth Bouldin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-09551-9 - Women Prophets and Radical Protestantism in the British
Atlantic World, 1640–1730

Elizabeth Bouldin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Women Prophets and Radical Protestantism
in the British Atlantic World, 1640–1730

ELIZABETH BOULDIN

Florida Gulf Coast University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-09551-9 - Women Prophets and Radical Protestantism in the British
 Atlantic World, 1640–1730
 Elizabeth Bouldin
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107095519

© Elizabeth Bouldin 2015

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2015

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Bouldin, Elizabeth, 1980–

Women prophets and radical protestantism in the British Atlantic world, 1640–1730 / Elizabeth Bouldin.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-09551-9 (hardback)

1. Atlantic Ocean Region – Church history – 17th century. 2. Atlantic Ocean Region – Church history – 18th century. 3. Women prophets. I. Title.

BR757.B68 2015

270.09182'1–dc23 2015019506

ISBN 978-1-107-09551-9 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-09551-9 - Women Prophets and Radical Protestantism in the British
Atlantic World, 1640–1730
Elizabeth Bouldin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> vii
Introduction	1
1 Female Prophecy and Election during the Civil Wars and Interregnum	17
2 Female Prophecy, Election, and the Transatlantic Quaker Community	51
3 “Clothed with the Sun”: Ann Bathurst, Behmenism, and Gendered Prophecy	89
4 The Problem of Prophetic Authority, c. 1706–1715	119
5 “Peculiar People in All Parts and Denominations of Christendom”: Dissenters and Transconfessional Exchange	154
Conclusion	183
<i>Bibliography</i>	193
<i>Index</i>	207

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-09551-9 - Women Prophets and Radical Protestantism in the British
Atlantic World, 1640–1730

Elizabeth Bouldin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-09551-9 - Women Prophets and Radical Protestantism in the British
Atlantic World, 1640–1730

Elizabeth Bouldin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

In the course of researching and writing this book, I have benefited from the generosity of numerous people and institutions. The book in its current iteration evolved out of research from my dissertation project, and I am appreciative of the dedicated mentorship of my two advisers, James Melton and Jonathan Strom. A Warwick-Newberry workshop led by Trevor Burnard and Mark Knights provided much to think about at a critical juncture in my research. During the writing and revision process, I benefited from conversations with Naomi Pullin, Sharon Strocchia, fellow panelists at the Renaissance Society of America Conference, and participants of the Eighteenth-Century Worlds Seminar in Liverpool. I also thank the staff at Chetham's Library in Manchester, who alerted me to recently discovered manuscripts.

Funding opportunities provided by the Blair Rogers Major and James Russell Major Dissertation Award and a Warwick-Newberry Short-Term Fellowship allowed me to complete archival research for this project. I am especially grateful for my time at Emory University's Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry. Keith Anthony, Colette Barlow, Amy Erben, Roberto Franzosi, Darren Grem, Angie LaGrotteria, and Christine McCulloch made my time there both pleasant and productive. Randy Strahan, who passed away in 2014, gave advice that continues to inform my teaching and scholarship.

Friends and colleagues offered hospitality and support during my research trips to the United Kingdom and during my years at Emory, Georgia Southern University, and Converse College. I particularly wish to thank Hannah Benninger, Jon Bryant, Charles Carlton, Kathleen Comerford, Joe Dunn, Rhiannon Evangelista, Melissa Gayan, Mirko Hall, Madelyn Heath, Jeff Poelvoorde, Scott Savran, Stephanie Sparkmon, Beth Thomas, Melissa Walker, and Lori and Jim Wiseman. Finally, above all, I am grateful to my family for encouraging me in this endeavor and indeed in so many aspects of my life. Their support has meant much to me, and it has been a constant in my life.