

Notes

Sources for *Revolver* can be separated generally into three categories: published books, unpublished documents (letters, journals, etc.), and newspaper articles. For the published books, I cite the author's last name, which can be found in the bibliography. For an unpublished document, I give the date of its creation and the archive that holds it. For newspaper articles, I give the name and date of the publication. Sources that fall into none of the above categories—government reports, academic journals, thesis papers—are given fuller citations and can be found in the bibliography.

Commonly Used Abbreviations

CHS: Samuel Colt Papers, Connecticut Historical Society

CHS Jarvis Letters: William Jarvis Letters, Connecticut Historical Society

CSL: Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company Records, Connecticut State Library

URI: Colt Family Papers, University of Rhode Island

WADS: Colt materials in the Archives of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Yale: Jarvis-Robinson Family Papers, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University

SC: Samuel Colt

Prologue: A Taste for Distasteful Truths

1 *The common story*: Rohan, 23, and Edwards, 23–24, for example.

1 “*centrifugal chaos*”: Hosley, 18.

5 “*Each man has at his side*”: *Weekly Arkansas Gazette*, 8/23/1850, quoting from *Independence Commonwealth*.

5 “*I know of no country*”: Tocqueville, 47.

6 “*Cultivate a taste*”: Bierce, xv.

One: Lord's Hill

- 11 *arbiter elegantiae*: Haight, 7.
- 12 “similarity of station and attainment”: Sigourney, *Letters of Life*, 202.
- 12 “the sunshine of joy”: Sigourney, *Letters to My Pupils*, 232.
- 12 “her profuse flaxen hair”: *Ibid.*, 241.
- 12 *a notebook kept by Sarah Ann Colt*: Sarah Ann Colt, *School Notebooks*, 1819–21, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 10.
- 12 “the most beautiful eminence”: *Hartford Courant*, 8/4/1818.
- 12 “Roses of every hue”: Sigourney, *Letters of Life*, 271.
- 13 “How often from my window”: Sigourney, *Letters to My Pupils*, 232.
- 13 “a beautiful boy”: Sigourney, *Letters of Life*, 295.
- 13 “our handsomest couple”: *Ibid.*, 294.
- 13 *A story had it*: Rohan, 1–3.
- 13 *began placing advertisements*: *Hartford Courant* (aka *Connecticut Courant*), 5/10/1802; 11/26/1806; 6/17/1807; 1/20/1808; 11/1/1809.
- 14 “the higher confidence and esteem”: *New England Weekly Review*, 10/2/1841.
- 15 “like the sun behind the cloud”: Quoted in Ann Douglas Wood, “Mrs. Sigourney and the Sensibility of the Inner Space,” *New England Quarterly* 45, no. 2 (June 1972).
- 15 “When account shall be made”: Quoted in Sigourney, *Selected Poetry and Prose*, 11.
- 15 *Her biographer*: Haight, in the preface of his biography of Sigourney.
- 15 *one of five households*: Wood, *Empire of Liberty*, 711.
- 15 *One early nineteenth-century study*: *Newark Daily Advertiser*, 2/22/1838; see also Larkin, 72, and Howe, 37.
- 16 “My poor little children!”: Quoted in Barnard, 296.
- 17 “beset by a kind of perpetual fear”: Parsons, 72.
- 17 “a desirable situation”: *Hartford American Mercury*, 1/20/1824.
- 17 *One attempt to count*: Michael Bellesiles’s *Arming America*, published in 2000 and awarded the Bancroft Prize for history. After evidence surfaced that Bellesiles had fabricated some of the data to support his claim that guns were scarce in early America, the prize was revoked.
- 17 “gun culture”: Richard Hofstadter, “America as a Gun Culture,” *American Heritage* 21, no. 6 (October 1970).
- 19 “with the early light”: Sigourney, *Letters to My Pupils*, 232–36.
- 19 *According to one dubious story*: *Liberator*, 10/22/1841.
- 19 “Months of suffering”: Sigourney, *Letters to My Pupils*, 232–36.
- 20 *She was one of seven teachers*: The list of teachers, including Sarah Colt and Harriet Beecher, is in “Catalogue of the Officers, Teachers, and Pupils of the Hartford Female Seminary for the Summer Term of 1828,” in the Beecher-Stowe Family Papers, 1798–1956, at the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University.
- 20 *One of her brothers*: James Colt to SC, 10/6/1841, CSL, Box 8.
- 20 “That stately form”: L. H. Sigourney, “In Memorium Colonel Samuel Colt, Died at Hartford, on Friday morning, January 10th, 1862,” Yale, Box 3, C-69.

Two: His Name Was Colt

- 21 *Assuming they came directly*: Times are based on stagecoach schedules. See *Boston Traveller*, 2/3/1829, and *Hartford Times*, 5/18/1829.
- 22 “several hot and cold baths”: Quoted in Richard M. Candee, “New Towns in the Early

- Nineteenth Century: The Textile Industry and Community Development in New England,” a research paper written for Old Sturbridge Village.
- 22 “cotton into gold”: Muir, 156–68.
- 23 *the corrugated landscape of New England*: See Hunter, 120–31. Also see Morris, 97–98. For a fascinating discussion of how and why New England became the birthplace of America’s industrial revolution, see Muir, 98–107. And for a better understanding of how water mills are constructed and function, see Macaulay’s *Mill*.
- 23 “a desolate wilderness”: Chase, 220, quoting from Jeremiah Spofford’s *Gazetteer of Massachusetts* of 1828.
- 23 “as by enchantment”: Augustus B. Reed, *Historical Sermon Delivered at Ware First Parish on Thanksgiving Day, Dec. 2, 1830*. For the history of Ware, see also Hyde, *An Address, Delivered at the Opening of the New Town-Hall*, and Arthur Chase, *History of Ware*.
- 24 “making a deep cut”: *National Gazette*, 8/21/1828.
- 25 *large leather ledger*: This is in the possession of the Young Men’s Library Association (Ware’s public library).
- 25 *The second story*: This is recounted, for example, in Powell, 33–36.
- 26 *As usually told*: For example, Edwards, 18, and Rywell, *Samuel Colt*, 23. For weather, see the *New York Post*, 7/6/1829; *National Gazette*, 7/7/1829; 7/8/1829; and *Weekly Raleigh Register*, 7/9/1829.
- 26 *In Boston . . . William Lloyd Garrison*: Mayer, 62.
- 26 “making the world aware”: Hosley, 74, quoting Barnard, 160.
- 27 *SAM COLT WILL BLOW UP A RAFT*: Quoted in Edwards, 18.
- 27 “population so much thrown together”: Wilder, 196.
- 27 “Ours is the cause of God!”: Quoted in Gura, 153.
- 28 *Parsons Cooke had been installed*: *Ibid.*, 145.
- 28 *When a group of young people*: Wilder, 206.
- 28 *Americans in the early nineteenth century*: See Wood, *Empire of Liberty*, 339, and Larkin, 286.
- 28 *One historian of Ware estimated*: Hyde, 45.
- 28 “having at a groggery”: Wilder, 198.
- 28 *On no occasion*: Larkin, 275, 286; Reynolds, 176; Howe, 167–68.
- 28 “Rather than journeying”: Gura, 142.
- 29 *Colt was not the first person*: Lundeberg, 1–9.
- 29 “It had been noised around”: Quoted in Barnard, 275–76.
- 30 “In wrath they converged”: Edwards, 18.
- 30 “We received your letter today”: Olivia Colt to SC, 6/15/1830, CHS, Box 1.
- 30 “without doubt, the leading academical”: Carpenter and Morehouse, 149.
- 30 *During the brief time*: The Dickinson name appears frequently in school catalogs; see Amherst College Early History Collection, Series 1: Amherst Academy, 1815–94; folder 9.
- 31 “It is strictly”: Quoted in Tuckerman, 77.
- 31 “spacious and commodious building”: *Connecticut Observer*, 9/8/1828.
- 31 *These regulations were straightforward*: “Laws of Amherst Academy,” Amherst College Early History Collection, Series 1: Amherst Academy, 1815–94, folder 6.
- 31 “You see then Samuel”: Olivia Colt to SC, 6/16/1830, CHS, Box 1.
- 32 “as I think you will have use”: Olivia Colt to SC, 6/23/1830, CHS, Box 1.
- 32 *Another companion was Robert Purvis*: Bacon, 22.
- 32 “gang of ungovernable, disorderly”: *Hampshire Gazette*, 7/7/1830. I am indebted to Amherst College archivist Margaret Dakin, who discovered this reference to the uproar and the reminiscence of J. A. Cary, Amherst class of 1832, who predicted

- the night would “long stand recorded in the annals of Hell.” Dakin recorded her findings in the Amherst Archive’s blog, *The Consecrated Eminence*: consecratedeminence.wordpress.com (entry dated 6/8/2015).
- 33 “*I well recollect the main incidents*”: Edward Dickinson to Henry Barnard, 7/22/1864, WADS, 1913.27.4.

Three: The Voyage of the *Corvo*

- 35 *The throng had come*: Descriptions of the missionaries’ preparations and the *Corvo*’s departure are in *American Baptist Magazine* 10 (1830): 271–74. See also “Annual Report” of the United Church Board for World Ministries 20 (1830): 33, and the *Boston Recorder*, 8/11/1830.
- 37 “*That last time I saw Sam*”: Samuel Lawrence to Christopher Colt, 8/2/1830, WADS.
- 37 “*Yet a sailor’s life*”: Dana, 39.
- 37 *The most of illuminating of these . . . by William Hervey*: Many details of the *Corvo*’s departure and voyage are taken from the journal of William Hervey, written by Hervey during the voyage and later printed in the weekly *New York Evangelist*, from 2/4/1832 to 3/24/1832. Dates given for Hervey apply to the date of publication in the *Evangelist*.
- 38 *While sea voyages were considered*: See Damon, 281–83.
- 38 “*There is witchery in the sea*”: Dana, 376.
- 38 *Samuel Lawrence had spent \$90*: Samuel Lawrence to Christopher Colt, 8/2/1830, WADS.
- 38 *That was a minor fortune*: The figure of \$10/month for sailors is given by Hervey, *New York Evangelist*, 2/11/1832.
- 39 “*But it is impossible to deceive*”: Dana, 4.
- 39 “*There is not so helpless and pitiable*”: Ibid., 6.
- 39 “*The stomach is thrown*”: Hervey, *New York Evangelist*, 2/4/1832.
- 40 “*making wild vomits*”: Dana, 9.
- 40 “*The cook, who seems to know*”: Hervey, *New York Evangelist*, 2/4/1832.
- 40 “*He appears to be*”: Hervey, *New York Evangelist*, 2/11/1832.
- 40 “*His parents live in Ware*”: Ibid.
- 41 “*tarring, greasing, oiling*”: Dana, 18.
- 41 “*It is better to be at the head*”: SC to William Colt, 7/21/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 42 “*They are good for nothing to eat*”: Hervey, *New York Evangelist*, 3/24/1832.
- 42 “*a gale as severe*”: Hervey, *New York Evangelist*, 3/10/1832.
- 43 “*So farewell to the sea whose waters*”: Hervey, *New York Evangelist*, 3/17/1832.
- 44 “*This morning one of the sailors*”: Hervey, *New York Evangelist*, 3/24/1832.
- 44 “*I could look on no longer*”: Dana, 105.
- 44 “*which I can hardly control*”: Ibid., 383.
- 44 “*You see your condition!*”: Ibid., 105.
- 44 *Another former sailor*: Glenn, 112–21; see also “Brief History of Punishment by Flogging in the US Navy” by Dr. Harold D. Langley, website of Naval History and Heritage Command, www.history.navy.mil.
- 45 “*Poor fellow from my heart*”: William Ramsey’s “Diary from August 2nd 1830 to March 7 1831, containing my journal of the voyage from America to Bombay,” entry dated 10/20/1830. Ramsey’s journal is in the archives of the Presbyterian Historical Society, Ramsey family papers, RG 261, Box 1. Along with Hervey’s letters to his parents, Ramsey’s diary is the most complete day-by-day account of the *Corvo* voyage.
- 45 “*Poor fellow, be hollered*”: Ibid., entry dated 10/22/1830.

- 46 “*an immense and desolate jungle*”: Letter of John T. Jones, written 12/21/1830 and printed in *Christian Watchman*, 6/17/1831.
- 46 “*in different states*”: William Ramsey’s diary, 12/23/1830.
- 47 *his impressions of Calcutta*: The city at the time of Colt’s visit is vividly depicted, in both words and drawings, in *Description of a View of the City of Calcutta, Now Exhibiting at the Panorama, Leicester Square, Painted by the Proprietor, Robert Buford* (London: J. and C. Adlard, 1830).
- 47 “*the whole illumined*”: *Ibid.*, 3.
- 48 “*thirty or forty*”: Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 125.
- 48 *The ship was loaded*: *Boston Columbian Centinel*, 7/6/1831.
- 49 *The Corvo sailed into Boston*: *Boston Commercial Gazette*, 7/4/1831; *Boston Courier*, 7/4/1831.
- 49 *first-ever performance*: *Boston Patriot & Mercantile Advertiser*, 7/4/1831.

Four: The Nitrous Oxide Tour

- 51 “*What, to the Slave*”: The phrase is from a speech delivered by Frederick Douglass on July 5, 1852, in Rochester, NY.
- 52 *A notebook left behind*: Journal of Samuel Colt, Yale, Box 1.
- 53 *The gunsmith Anson Chase recalled*: Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 226–29.
- 54 “*a rotating cylinder*”: Samuel Colt, “On the application of Machinery to the manufacturing of Rotating Chambered-Breech Fire-Arms, and peculiarities of those Arms,” in the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers* 11, session 1851–52 (London: Institution of Civil Engineers, 1852). Later published as Colt, *On the Application of Machinery to the Manufacture of Rotating Chambered-Breech Fire-Arms, and Their Peculiarities*.
- 55 “*Your son could get*”: Abner Bassett to Christopher Colt, 1/18/1832, CHS, Box 1.
- 55 *We know he sent the chest*: Abner Bassett to SC, 5/17/1832, CHS, Box 1.
- 55 “*Samuel is now here*”: Henry Ellsworth to Christopher Colt, 2/20/1832, CHS, Box 1.
- 56 “*You are once more on the move*”: Christopher Colt to SC, 3/30/1832, WADS.
- 56 *a great human tide*: See Larkin, 204–11. And for a lively treatment of the itinerant population in America at the time, see Wright, *Hawkers & Walkers in Early America*.
- 56 “*infected with the mania*”: Quoted in Wood, *Empire of Liberty*, 736.
- 57 “*There were always the rewards*”: Boorstin, 97.
- 57 “*a brief and sportive episode*”: Barnard, 154.
- 57 *an urn-like device called a gasometer*: The gasometer is mentioned in the testimony of Henry Meech in Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 224.
- 57 “*capable of destroying physical pain*”: Quoted in Holmes, 282.
- 58 “*gained admittance*”: *Ibid.*, 263, 273.
- 58 “*Those Ladies who may be anxious*”: Colt broadside, WADS (and see pg. 59 of this book).
- 58 “*The subscriber respectfully informs*”: *Boston Courier*, 6/4/1832, and in other Boston newspapers in July. See also a notice in the *Boston Courier*, 6/11/1832, regarding a lost watch key and mentioning the basement hall at the Masonic temple. Advertisements show that Colt was in Boston through at least 6/22/1832.
- 59 “*already marked with death*”: *Missionary Herald*, December 1832. The letter was written by one of Hervey’s fellow missionaries in India on 5/13/1832.
- 60 *The mayor of New York imposed*: Burrows and Wallace, 590.
- 60 “*The roads, in all directions*”: *New York Evening Post*, 7/3/1832, quoted in Rosenberg, 28. The history of the 1832 cholera epidemic is detailed in Rosenberg, 13–39.
- 60 “*title-sick as a banker’s wife*”: Frances Kemble, 9/6/1832, from Kemble.

- 61 “*the finest edifice*”: Lossing, 212–13.
- 61 “*Ladies & Gentlemen*”: The full text of this is in Houze, 40.
- 62 “*Your letter containing the project*”: James Colt to SC, 3/6/1833, CHS, Box 1.
- 63 *He used the same notebook*: Journal of Samuel Colt, Yale, Box 1.
- 63 *A classified advertisement: Daily National Intelligencer*, 1/23/1833; see also *Boston Commercial Gazette*, 3/4/1833.
- 64 *The firm of Franklin & Armfield*: Deyle, 100; see also Baptist, 238–44, and Troutman.
- 64 “*more negroes than all*”: Deyle, 104.
- 64 *Incredibly, a fragment of a receipt*: This is in the Bernard Raux Slave Trade Papers, 1823–36 (MS Am 790), in the Houghton Library at Harvard University.
- 64 *The girls, too, were destined*: See Baptist, 240–41, for the sexual connotations of the terms *maid* and *fancy girl*.
- 65 “*This Babel of all Babels*”: Quoted in Campanella, 103, 294–95. See also Damrosch, 161–62.
- 66 “*Purchasers are in the habit*”: Quoted in Campanella, 113–14, 117.
- 66 *The only trace*: Receipt, 4/20/1833, CHS, Box 1.
- 66 “*fellow citizens not acquainted: Mississippi Free Trader (Natchez)*, 5/3/1833.
- 66 *In an incident that local papers: Mississippi Free Trader (Natchez)*, 4/26/33; *Natchez (MS) Weekly Courier*, 4/26/1833.
- 68 “*Let no one who wishes*”: Trollope, 18.
- 68 “*the voracious rapidity*”: Ibid., 20.
- 68 “*The table was cleared*”: Quoted in Damrosch, 155–56.
- 68 “*Distance is no longer*”: Ibid., 154.
- 69 “*We ran a hundred times more risk*”: Ibid., 129.
- 69 *What lay west of that*: Yenne, 27–36; Sides, 59–60; DeVoto, *Across the Wide Missouri*, 148.
- 69 “*in the geography of fable*”: DeVoto, *Across the Wide Missouri*, 148.
- 70 *A single brief anecdote*: Rohan 55–56; Barnard, 153–54.
- 70 “*this triste little town*”: Trollope, 59.
- 71 *By the time Colt arrived in Cincinnati*: Colt’s appearance at the Western Museum is established by advertisements in the *Cincinnati Daily Gazette*, 6/25/1833–6/27/1833.
- 71 “*I shall never forget*”: Hiram Powers to SC, 9/10/1851, Yale, Box 3.
- 71 “*peculiarly attractive*”: *Boston Post*, 7/26/1833.
- 71 *On August 7, he stopped*: Barnard, 148.
- 71 *By mid-August, he was performing*: Advertisement in *Pittsburgh Weekly Gazette*, 8/17/1833.
- 71 “*The scenes that ensued*”: *Pittsburgh Manufacturer*, quoted in *Fayetteville (NC) Observer*, 10/8/33.
- 72 “*Dr. S. Coult respectfully informs*”: *Pittsburgh Weekly Gazette*, 8/22/1833.

Five: The Anatomical Cabinet

- 75 “*We never beheld*”: *Albany Microscope*, 10/26/1833, quoted in Barnard, 152.
- 76 “*I was inclined to be poetical*”: Hawthorne, 172.
- 76 “*I always called him Doctor*”: Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 224.
- 76 *Among Colt’s papers are receipts*: These receipts, 11/3/1833 and 11/5/1833, are in CHS, Box 1. The receipts appear to be dated 1832, rather than 1833, but in his “*Expenditures on Repeating Rifles*,” 3/6/1836, Colt accurately dates the payments in Albany to November 1833. Why were the receipts misdated? It might have been a simple mistake, but it is worth considering—as I do on pg. 280—whether the dates

- were changed to accord with Colt's purposes in his suit against Massachusetts Arms Co.
- 76 "I used to be very fond": Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 225.
- 76 *In 1836, when Colt sat down*: "Expenditures on Repeting Rifles," 3/6/1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 77 *His pistol misfired*: Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 229. Chase later recalled that no repairs were made but the receipt seems to contradict that.
- 77 "On Demand I promise to pay": Receipt, 12/31/1833, CHS, Box 1.
- 78 "One dish, that wakens": From "Thanksgiving" by Mrs. Little, pg. 165 of *The Garland for 1830: Designed as a Christmas and New-Year's Present* (New York: Josiah Drake, 1830).
- 78 "so lively and cheerful": Olivia Colt to SC, 12/5/1834, CHS, Box 1. Olivia is remembering Thanksgiving from the previous year.
- 78 "I did not place": Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 231.
- 79 *One day in the late winter of 1834*: From an entry in Matchett's Baltimore Directory for 1833, via the Archives of Maryland, aomol.msa.maryland.gov: "Arthur T. Baxter, gunsmith, 67 Pratt near Commerce St."
- 79 *Pearson was a native*: Biographical information on Pearson is taken from his obituary in the *Missouri Dental Journal: A monthly record of Science and Art* 15 (1883). See also Bennett and Worthen, *Arkansas Made*, 170, in which Pearson is described as being at "the top of the list of master gunsmiths in Arkansas."
- 79 *A record of the first transactions*: Journal of Samuel Colt, Yale, Box 1.
- 80 "To a person who arrives": Quoted in McInnes, 5, 19, 22.
- 80 "Nothing could be gayer": Martineau, 238.
- 80 "To make the Exhibition": *Charleston Courier*, 4/4/1834; 4/11/1834.
- 80 "much disapointed": Arthur Baxter to SC, 4/21/1834, CHS, Box 1.
- 81 "You may be inshured": SC to Arthur Baxter, 5/10/1834, CHS, Box 1.
- 81 *Walker was running a museum*: Scharf, 441-42.
- 82 "an untiring and able caterer": Ibid.
- 82 "The Manager respectfully informs": *Baltimore Gazette & Daily Advertiser*, 7/10/1833.
- 82 *He returned to Albany at the end of June*: Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 224. For Colt's itinerary, see also Barnard, 148-53, and Edwards, 32.
- 83 "I must have been farther east": SC to Christopher Colt, 11/30/1834, CHS, Box 1.
- 83 "I have thought much of you": Olivia Colt to SC, 10/23/1834, CHS, Box 1.
- 83 "I read your letter": Joseph Walker to SC, 12/28/34, CHS, Box 1.
- 84 *Before leaving Baltimore*: Journal of Samuel Colt, 1/7/1835, Yale, Box 1.
- 85 "Make, if you have not": SC to John Pearson, 1/23/1835, CHS, Box 1.
- 85 "The money you sent won't pay": John Pearson to SC, 2/1/1835, CHS, Box 1.
- 86 "Don't be alarmed": SC to John Pearson, 2/5/1835, CHS, Box 1.
- 86 "Oh god is it possible": Joseph Walker to SC, 4/5/1835, CHS, Box 1.
- 86 *Walker's name appeared once more*: *Richmond Enquirer*, 4/17/1835.

Six: On the Verge

- 89 "R. Colt, Esq": SC to Roswell Colt, 5/2/1835, CHS, Box 1.
- 90 *Benjamin Franklin the ever-ready example*: Wood, *Empire of Liberty*, 713-14.
- 91 "No man enjoyed social life": Weed, 71.
- 91 "widely known, highly enterprising": Ibid., 70.
- 91 "adept at using his friends": Tucker and Tucker, 49.
- 91 "mammoth of power": Brands, *Andrew Jackson*, 502.

- 91 *"a scoundrel and swindler"*: Tucker and Tucker, 49.
- 91 *"the greatest of all the Colts"*: Shriner, 64.
- 92 *A visiting Yankee remarked*: Goodman, 90.
- 92 *"treacherous and thick-witted apostate"*: *New York Evening Post*, 11/10/1834.
- 94 *According to Ellsworth lore*: Dobyns, 41–43.
- 95 *Ellsworth saw his job*: Gibby, 81–82; and see Dobyns, 125. For the importance of patents, see Howe, 534–35.
- 95 *"a poster child to validate his vision"*: Gibby, 82.
- 95 *"a general without an army"*: Captain Frederick Marryat, quoted in Reps, 59. For the appearance of Washington in the 1830s, see also Morley, 14–15.
- 95 *These five buildings*: For the layout of the President's House and surrounding buildings at the time, see Reps, 70, 79.
- 96 *"The bearer of this, Mr. Colt"*: Henry Ellsworth to Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson, 7/23/1835, CHS, Box 1.
- 96 *"competent to form"*: Navy Commissioners to SC, 7/24/35, CHS, Box 1.
- 96 *Ellsworth revealed the plan*: Henry Ellsworth to Christopher Colt, 7/24/35, CHS, Box 1.
- 96 *"I hope Samuel will do well"*: Ibid.
- 97 *"He informs me you are acquainted"*: Christopher Colt to Roswell Colt, 7/30/35, CHS, Box 1. The fair copy of this letter, evidently received by Roswell Colt, is in Roswell Colt's papers at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
- 97 *That Friday, Sam signed a contract*: Contract between SC and Christopher Colt, 8/7/1835, CHS, Box 1. Also in CHS, dated 8/7/1835, is a note signed by Christopher Colt promising to pay Joseph Selden back within six months.
- 98 *Violence was breaking out*: Freeman, 4–5.
- 98 *The Snow Riot*: For details of this event I am indebted to Jefferson Morley's *Snow-Storm in August: The Struggle for American Freedom and Washington's Race Riot of 1835*.
- 99 *When Colt arrived in Washington*: Henry Ellsworth to Christopher Colt, 8/12/35, CHS, Box 1.
- 99 *"The streets are full of people"*: Henry Ellsworth to Christopher Colt, 8/12/1835, CHS, Box 1.
- 99 *He paid John Pearson*: Receipt, 8/15/1835, CHS, Box 1.
- 99 *"I hope Samuel"*: Henry Ellsworth to Christopher Colt, 8/12/35, CHS, Box 1.

Seven: Fire

- 103 *"boney-blond with flashing black eyes"*: Edwards, 42.
- 103 *"detailed and accurate"*: Galignani, front matter.
- 104 *The manifest*: This can be seen online under 7 January 1836, "List or Manifest of All Passengers," www.immigrantships.net/v14/1800v14/albany18360107.html.
- 105 *The flames burned so brightly*: Burrows and Wallace, 596.
- 105 *"I have this morning arrived"*: SC to Christopher Colt, 1/7/1836, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 2.
- 106 *Selden had lost some property*: *New York Spectator*, 12/21/1835.
- 107 *"who I am more than ever sure"*: SC to Christopher Colt, 1/7/1836, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 2.
- 107 *"I arrived last night"*: SC to Christopher Colt, 1/12/1836, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 2.
- 108 *"Be it known that I, Samuel Colt"*: Colt's application is in Haven and Belden, 546–48.
- 109 *"With all the aid you have"*: Christopher Colt to SC, 2/11/1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 110 *"If he has cash"*: Ibid.

- 110 “for the term of fourteen years”: Quoted in Haven and Belden, 539.
- 110 *The American Hotel*: Burrows and Wallace, 600.
- 111 *Real estate values skyrocketed*: Ibid., 601.
- 111 “I have written today a letter”: SC to Christopher Colt, 3/8/1836, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 2.
- 111 *Fifteen hundred shares were immediately purchased*: Phillips and Wilson, 208–9.
- 111 “devote sufficient time”: Ibid., 127.
- 112 “On Thursday the 21st of May”: Diary of Samuel Colt, 1836, CHS, Box 9, folder 6.
- 114 *The quest, then, was for uniformity*: For discussions of small arms, machinery, and uniformity, see Morris, 113–58; Muir, 119–35; and Hounshell, 25–50.
- 114 “One of my primary objectives”: Quoted in Morris, 124.
- 114 “I find that by confining a workman”: Quoted in Hounshell, 28.
- 115 “incessant and intolerable clangor and din”: Quoted in Hunter, 444. For a vivid description of the Springfield Armory, written a few years after Colt’s visit, see also Jacob Abbott’s *Marco Paul: At the Springfield Armory*.
- 115 “may at grate advantage”: Diary of Samuel Colt, 1836, CHS, Box 9, folder 6.
- 116 *A nineteenth-century history claimed*: Trumbull, 333.
- 116 “sublimest landscapes”: Johnson, 41.
- 116 *In 1792, the S.U.M. purchased*: For a brief history of Paterson’s development, see Crawford, 13–15.
- 117 *A cousin named Samuel*: Nelson, 349.
- 117 *Between siblings and cousins*: Trumbull, 46–49.
- 117 *On May 19, accompanied by his father*: Diary of Samuel Colt, 1836, CHS, Box 9, folder 6.
- 118 “Our progress since you left here”: SC to Christopher Colt, 5/30/1836, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 2.
- 118 “Sir I received your letter yesterday”: John Pearson to SC, 3/27/1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 119 “I am sorry”: John Pearson to SC, 4/23/1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 119 “How can you think”: John Pearson to SC, 5/9/1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 119 “Received Baltimore June 4”: Journal of Samuel Colt, 1831–36, Yale, Box 1.
- 120 “Mr. Pearson invented an article”: *Missouri Dental Journal*, 240.

Eight: Burst

- 121 *by 1836, Isaac Franklin was selling*: Baptist, 270.
- 121 “On whatever side we turn our eyes”: Quoted in Roberts, 32.
- 122 “Yet nobody perceived the illusion”: Ibid., 33.
- 122 *he owed nearly \$90*: Hatfield & Pearson bill, June–July 1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 122 “completely worn out”: Olivia Colt to SC, 11/26/1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 123 “I am inclined to think”: A. J. Yates to Stephen Austin, 6/3/1836, Digital Austin Papers, digitalaustinpapers.org.
- 123 “it will be as late as next May”: SC to A. J. Yates, undated 1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 124 *On this bill, he owed \$7 for board*: Astor House bill, 1/10/1837, CHS, Box 1.
- 124 *By one estimate*: Burrows and Wallace, 534.
- 124 “Money is a trash”: SC to William Colt, 7/21/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 124 “My dear Samuel when I consider”: Christopher Colt to SC, 9/14/36, CHS, Box 1.
- 125 “If I knew that my four full grown sons”: Christopher Colt to SC, 12/5/1834, CHS, Box 1.
- 125 “the spring water did not agree”: Christopher Colt to SC, 9/14/36, CHS, Box 1.
- 125 “How goes up your factory building”: Christopher Colt to SC, 11/1/1836, CHS, Box 1.

- 125 “*medley of domestic hay*”: Olivia Colt to SC, 11/26/1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 125 “*On this fine morning*”: Olivia Colt to SC, 11/1/1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 126 “*We received a letter*”: Olivia Colt to SC, 11/26/1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 126 “*With respect to my being connected*”: James Colt to SC, 12/22/1836, CSL, Box 8.
- 126 *Selden had gone into debt*: Christopher Colt to SC, 12/15/1836, CHS, Box 1.
- 127 *They were judged in eleven categories*: United States Congress, *American State Papers VII*, no. 740 (September 19, 1837), 467.
- 128 “*I have been satisfactorily informed*”: Quoted in Edwards, 50–51.
- 128 “*The application on your part*”: Dudley Selden to SC, 3/1/1837, CHS, Box 1.
- 129 “*This is to inform you*”: Quoted in Edwards, 52.
- 130 “*improvement in fire arms*”: *Ibid.*, for SC’s letter (3/28/1837) to Henry Ellsworth regarding improvements. See also Houze, 249, regarding the caveat filed by Colt on 3/28/1837 for “chamfering mouths of cylinder chambers.”
- 130 *On April 6, 1837, Selden’s father*: *New-Yorker*, 4/15/1837.
- 130 “*The deception which he accuses you of*”: Christopher Colt to SC, 4/10/1837, CHS, Box 1.
- 131 *Early on the morning of Tuesday*: Burrows and Wallace, 611, place this event on the ides of March, but an account in the *New York Evening Post*, 3/14/1837, places it on March 14.
- 131 *The historian Daniel Walker Howe*: Howe, 502.
- 132 *By April 8, 93 merchant firms*: Burrows and Wallace, 611–12.
- 132 “*This volume commences*”: Hone, 251.
- 133 *One cadet who may*: O’Connell, *Fierce Patriot*, 3. See also McDonough, chapters 2 and 3.
- 134 “*My mind is entirely made up*”: Dudley Selden to SC, 4/14/1837, CHS, Box 1.
- 134 “*Had you divulged to the Company*”: Dudley Selden to SC, 4/18/37, CHS, Box 1.
- 134 *The new set of trials*: The trials in Washington and West Point are described in a series of government orders, reports, and tables included in United States Congress, *American State Papers VII*, no. 740 (September 19, 1837).
- 134 “*such a degree of dread*”: *Ibid.*, 471.
- 134 “*The by-standers seemed to consider*”: *New York Courier*, 6/29/1837; see also *Adams Sentinel* (Gettysburg, PA), 6/26/1837.
- 134 “*Our trial at West Point is finished*”: SC to Christopher Colt, 7/2/1837, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 2.
- 135 *An unsigned column*: *New York Star*, 7/6/1837.
- 135 “*It is the opinion of the board*”: United States Congress, *American State Papers VII*, no. 740 (September 19, 1837), 471.
- 136 “*very justly reported them*”: SC to General Worth, 6/1847, CHS, Box 5.
- 136 *For centuries, armies had achieved*: O’Connell, *Of Arms and Men*, 135–36.
- 137 “*stepping as one man*”: O’Connell, *Fierce Patriot*, 7.
- 137 *the first model made at the mill*: Haven and Belden, 20–23.
- 138 “*where man is engaged in forging*”: *New York Commercial Advertiser*, 10/27/1837.
- 138 “*You will readily perceive*”: Dudley Selden to SC, 12/1/1837, CHS, Box 1.
- 139 *Mr. Colt happened to be near the scene*: *Journal of the American Institute* 3 (1838): 99–100.
- 139 *The first ads for Colt’s guns*: Edwards, 62.
- 139 “*They are put up in mahogany cases*”: *New York Evening Star*, 12/20/1837.
- 140 “*Put your trust*”: Christopher Colt to SC, 12/20/1837, CHS, Box 1.
- 140 “*I have barely time to tell you*”: William Harney to SC, 12/22/1837, CHS, Box 1.
- 141 “*My arrangements with Mr. Selden*”: SC to Christopher Colt, 2/3/1838, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 2. See also Dudley Selden to R. L. Colt, 2/5/1838, Roswell Colt papers,

- Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Box 7, in which Selden informs Roswell that they are in receipt of his “letter of guarantee.”
- 141 *“infurnal disagreeable” passage*: SC to Christopher Colt, 2/14/1838, CHS, Box 1.
- 142 *“This is a negro war”*: Quoted in Hatch, 179.
- 142 *“the poorest country”*: Motte, 199.
- 143 *“pertinaciously retreating”*: Ibid., 143.
- 143 *“Their indomitable and long uncompromising spirit”*: Ibid., 200.
- 143 *“reckless waste of blood and treasure”*: Quoted in Grunwald, 47.
- 144 *On February 12 . . . be’d dispatched*: Motte, 206, 304n.
- 144 *“in every manner that occurred”*: Report of gun trials at Fort Jupiter, W. S. Harney to Major General Jesup, 3/10/1838, CHS, Box 1.
- 145 *“The Indians exhibited considerable astonishment”*: Motte, 220.
- 145 *the Indians could not stay*: Ibid., 218, 307n.
- 145 *“grand frolic”*: Motte, 218.
- 145 *“I shall decline all correspondence”*: Dudley Selden to SC, 3/5/1838, CHS, Box 1.
- 145 *On April 6, Roswell Colt*: Roswell Colt to Christopher Colt, 4/6/1838, CHS, Box 1. See also Dudley Selden to Roswell Colt, 4/19/1838, Roswell L. Colt papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Box 7.
- 146 *His ship had made it through the Indian River*: This account is taken from a letter, SC to Dudley Selden, 4/11/1838, quoted in Edwards, 70. Edwards credits the letter to CHS, but the letter is now apparently missing.

Nine: Legerdemain

- 149 *But the rent was inexpensive*: New York University, Financial Records: Ledger of Rents, Fees and Scholarships (1838–53), Group 10, Box 4. These records show both the rent and location of Colt’s rooms at NYU, 1841–44. For additional information about the University Building, see “Archivist’s Angle: Life in the Old University Building,” by Celeste Brewer, in NYU Connect, 1/15/2016.
- 150 *“Invention and Improvement Office”*: Lawson, 512n.
- 150 *“confused heaps of buildings”*: Quoted in Stiles, *First Tycoon*, 151.
- 151 *“the ideal of quiet and genteel retirement”*: Quoted in Folpe, 81.
- 151 *A rescuer at last reached*: See Edwards, 70, for SC’s letter to Dudley Selden.
- 151 *When he finally got back to New York*: SC to Christopher Colt, 5/10/1838, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 2.
- 151 *“I expect nothing but trouble”*: Ibid.
- 151 *“It is of vital importance”*: SC to Christopher Colt, 5/12/38, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 2.
- 151 *“some insinuations”*: Christopher Colt to SC, 5/12/1838, CHS, Box 1.
- 152 *“I trust you will be able”*: Christopher Colt to SC, 5/14/1838, CHS, Box 1.
- 152 *“I am grieved”*: Roswell Colt to SC, 10/15/1838, CHS, Box 1.
- 152 *“With a little Legerdemain”*: Quoted in Edwards, 79.
- 152 *Colt spent \$75*: For Colt’s alcohol expenses, see Houze, 56, and Hosley, 235n79.
- 153 *“The suggestion . . . is dishonorable”*: Dudley Selden to SC, 1/6/1839, CHS, Box 2.
- 153 *“I know not what you may think”*: Dudley Selden to SC, 2/24/39, CHS, Box 2.
- 153 *“I danced constant attendance”*: SC to the directors of the P.A.M.C., 3/12/1839, CHS, Box 2.
- 153 *“extremely pleased”*: Ibid.
- 153 *He had received a new communication*: SC to the directors of the P.A.M.C., 3/14/1839, CHS, Box 2.

- 154 “*I do not see any grounds*”: Daniel Webster to SC, 2/15/1840, CHS, Box 2.
- 154 “*I shall be very reluctant*”: Dudley Selden to SC, 7/16/1839, CHS, Box 2.
- 154 “*I beg you to prepare*”: Roswell Colt to SC, 8/16/1839, CHS, Box 2.
- 154 “*If you will please send the money*”: Olivia Colt to SC, 8/31/1839, CHS, Box 2.
- 155 “*One half of Sam Colt*”: Morris, 249.
- 155 *In the spring of 1840, Colt tallied*: Edwards, 116.
- 155 “*One for the pocket*”: SC to Captains McCaully, Aulick, and Twiggs, 5/25/1840, CHS, Box 2.
- 156 *Oddly, it was the Texas navy*: SC to Edward Curtis, 12/16/1839, CHS, Box 2.
- 156 “*as said Samuel*”: Contract between SC and Richard Pullen, 5/18/1838, CHS, Box 1.
- 156 “*When our arms were fired*”: SC, 11/20/1840, CHS, Box 2. See also “Minutes of Experiment with Colts Repeating Carbine & Halls single charged carbine,” 11/18/1840, CHS, Box 2.
- 156 *The popular version of this episode*: Edwards, 80, for example.
- 156 *On the morning of February 18*: For the true version of events, see Adams, *Memoirs of John Quincy Adams*, entries dated 2/18/1841–2/19/1841, pgs. 425–27.
- 157 “*I have done all I am willing*”: John Ehlers to SC, 3/10/1841, CHS, Box 3.
- 157 “*bad taken a great dislike to Mr. Colt*”: John Ehlers to Edward Curtis, 3/28/1840, New-York Historical Society, MSS Collection (AHMC—Ehlers, John).
- 157 “*I hope that the next mail*”: John Ehlers to SC, 3/19/1841, CHS, Box 3. And regarding Colt’s increasingly negative feelings toward Ehlers, see SC to Christopher Colt, 5/5/1841, CHS, Box 3: “I have for a long time been growing suspicious of Mr. Ehlers & now am positively convinced of his treachery.”
- 158 “*A Jerman calling himself*”: Quoted in Houze, 65.
- 158 “*Enclosed you have the notice*”: Ogden to SC, 9/3/1841, CHS, Box 3.
- 160 “*John Coult Accountant*”: *Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal*, 11/8/1836.
- 160 *Fictional profits and expenses*: These are in J. C. Colt’s *Science of Double Entry Book-Keeping*. Numerous editions were printed.
- 160 *He was discovered skulking*: *New York Evening Post*, 9/28/1841.
- 161 “*feloniously and burglarously*”: New York County DA—Indictment Records, March 13, 1839–May 15, 1839 (MN 5186, Roll 186), New York City Municipal Archives.
- 161 “*merry companions*”: Powell, 55–56.
- 161 *So far this week’s dead*: *New York Tribune*, 9/21/1841.
- 161 *At about 3:15 p.m.*: The narrative of events is drawn from voluminous press coverage, especially in the *New York Herald*, *New York Tribune*, and *New York Sun*. I am also indebted to accounts in Harold Schechter’s *Killer Colt*, M. William Phelps’s *Devil’s Right Hand*, John D. Lawson’s *American State Trials*, and Andie Tucher’s *Froth & Scum*.
- 162 “*I lost all power of reason*”: Lawson, 477.
- 162 “*being to relate the circumstance to a brother*”: *Ibid.*, 478.
- 163 “*A few words passed between us*”: *Ibid.*
- 164 *That Saturday, Sam Colt drafted a letter*: SC to Samuel Southard, 9/18/1841, CHS, Box 2.
- 164n *Upon the death of President William Harrison*: The Clay plot is described in Seager, 160–61.
- 165 *the submarine battery had three main components*: For my description of Colt’s device and demonstrations, I am indebted to Philip K. Lundeberg’s *Samuel Colt’s Submarine Battery*.
- 166 “*the pieces of the bone*”: *New York Evening Post*, 9/27/1841.
- 167 *Bennett turned Rogers’s death*: Srebnick, 5, 87–88, and Tucher, 16, 72–73, 149–52. Both authors describe James Gordon Bennett’s efforts to fan the flames of public outrage in order to sell newspapers.

- 167 “*He is well made but very slim*”: *New York Herald*, 9/28/1841.
- 168 “*crowded to suffocation*”: *New York Herald*, 9/30/1841.
- 169 “*completely driven reason from its throne*”: *New-England Weekly Review*, 10/2/1841.
- 169 “*I cannot express to you*”: James Colt to SC, 10/6/1841, CSL, Box 8.
- 169 “*The family are of great respectability*”: *Pittsfield (MA) Sun*, 10/7/41.
- 169 “*His early history*”: *New-England Weekly Review*, 10/2/1841.
- 169 “*passionate, cunning, and revengeful boy*”: *Liberator*, 10/22/1841.
- 169 “*stimulates the taste for liberty*”: Powell, 15.
- 169 “*Colt seemed like a man*”: *New York Herald*, 10/6/1841.
- 170 “*the whole plans and secrets*”: Quoted in Lundeberg, 21.
- 170 *By mid-December, he had a draft*: “Articles of Agreement,” 12/18/1841, CHS, Box 3.
- 172 “*At the time Adams was murdered*”: Barnum, 356–57.
- 172 “*a good deal affected*”: *New York Herald*, 1/18/1842. See also *New York Tribune*, 1/18/1842.
- 172 “*SAMUEL ADAMS, THE PRINTER*”: *New York Herald*, 1/20/1842.
- 172 “*unrelenting public appetite for blood*”: Quoted in Schechter, 162.
- 173 “*a venerable, fine, benevolent looking man*”: *New York Herald*, 1/20/1842.
- 173 “*Altogether,*” *Bennett’s Herald would proclaim*: *New York Herald*, 1/26/1842.
- 174 “*She had on a dark lilac colored silk bonnet*”: *New York Herald*, 1/27/1842.
- 175 “*his heart had died inside him*”: Quoted in Schechter, 231.
- 175 “*Capt. Vanderbelt,*” *as Colt wrote*: Journal of Sam Colt, 1842, CHS, Box 9, folder 6.
- 176 “*I’d sooner have him with us*”: Quoted in Stiles, *First Tycoon*, 131.
- 177 “*Since seeing you*”: SC to John William Draper, 3/10/1842, CHS, Box 3.
- 178 “*During the last several months*”: Quoted in Lundeberg, 22.
- 179 “*with an unanticipated clearness and strength*”: Thomas Picton, “University Reminiscences,” *University Quarterly* 6, no. 3 (May 1883). See also Folpe, 94, who suggests that Draper’s write-up of the experiment in 1847 contributed to the development of electric lighting.
- 179 “*If it succeeds*”: SC to Edward Curtis, 5/24/1842, CHS, Box 3.
- 179 “*four & a half inches wide*”: SC to Brown and Elton, 6/2/1842, CHS, Box 3.
- 180 “*The vessel was shattered*”: *New York Evening Post*, 7/5/1842.
- 180 “*would soon make his appearance*”: *New York Herald*, 7/6/1842.
- 180 “*triumphant result*”: *New York Tribune*, 7/6/1842.
- 180 “*dismal-fronted pile*”: Dickens, 98.
- 181 “*aromatic Havana*”: Dana quoted in Schechter, 243–45.
- 181 “*banged by the neck*”: *Brooklyn Evening Star*, 9/28/1842.
- 181 *in such newspapers as: Boone’s Lick (MO) Times*, 10/15/1842; *Wetumpka (AL) Argus*, 10/19/1842.
- 182 “*This has been the most triumphant day*”: SC to Christopher Colt, 8/20/1842, URI, Subgroup 1, Series 2.
- 182 “*The battery consists of a light sheet*”: *Brooklyn Evening Star*, 10/19/1842.
- 183 “*The whole was enveloped*”: *New York Tribune*, 10/19/1842.
- 183 *the exact number of pieces*: *New York Herald* quoted in Silverman, 216.
- 183 “*On this very day*”: Quoted in *New York Evening Post*, 10/20/1842.
- 183 *Morse intended to send*: Silverman, 216; Burrows and Wallace, 674–75; Lundeberg, 33–35.
- 184 “*My table groans*”: Seward, 629.
- 184 “*You can have no idea*”: *Ibid.*, 630.
- 184 *one serious death threat*: *Ibid.*, 633.
- 184 “*Now that the last act is done*”: *Ibid.*, 632.
- 185 “*Colt is the all-engrossing topic*”: Strong, 189–90.

- 185 “*The hearts of men were filled*”: Child, 237.
 185 “*I trust some of them are preserved*”: Ibid., 233.
 185 “*This has been a day*”: Strong, 190–91.
 185 “*this wild and stormy day*”: *New York Commercial Advertiser*, 11/18/1842.
 185 “*From eight o’clock this morning*”: Strong, 190–91.
 186 “*For a doomed man*”: See *New York Herald*, 2/16/1873, for Clark’s reminiscence. For a slightly different version, see the long footnote in Lawson, 511–13.
 186 “*Oh, I did not think it would come to this!*”: Quoted in Schechter, 280.
 186 *In his reminiscence*: Lawson, 511–13.
 186 “*for it was exceedingly beautiful*”: Child, 236–37.
 187 “*Mr. Colt! Mr. Colt!*”: Quoted in Lawson, 512.
 188 “*Thank God! Thank God!*”: Ibid.

Ten: In the Blood

- 189 “*a trap baited with grass*”: Caro, 8.
 190 *This part of Texas*: For a detailed description of the environment and history of Texas as the portal to the plains, see Webb, *Great Plains*, 3–9, 160–79.
 190 *On June 8, 1844, fifteen Texas Rangers*: This account, and the general description of the conflict between the rangers and the Comanche, draws on Utley, *Lone Star Justice*, 3–12; Fehrenbach, 470–77; Gwynne, 19, 32–35, 96–98, 138–50; and on Webb’s *Great Plains*. The encounter of June 8, 1844, is also described in a letter from E. W. Moore to SC, 3/11/1845, CHS, Box 4.
 190 “*a defining moment*”: Utley, *Lone Star Justice*, 3.
 191 “*the best light Calvary*”: Fehrenbach, 470.
 191 “*To speak of courage among Texas Rangers*”: Webb, *Texas Rangers*, 79.
 191 *By one ranger’s estimate*: Gwynne, 136.
 191 *Until 1844, the rangers carried*: Utley, *Lone Star Justice*, 8–9.
 192 *Rangers had to dismount to fight*: Webb, *Texas Rangers*, 81.
 192 *While charging a target*: Fehrenbach, 470–71; Gwynne, 33, 96, 132–33; Utley, *Lone Star Justice*, 9.
 192 “*So far as the records show*”: Webb, *Texas Rangers*, 80.
 192 *Commander E. W. Moore . . . had purchased*: E. W. Moore to SC, 3/11/1845, CHS, Box 4. See also John Fuller to C. B. Zabriskie, 4/1/1839, CHS, Box 2, in which the former relates making a deal in Texas to sell 180 Colt “belt pistols 8 inch barrel for \$35 each with levers and bullet moulds,” along with 180 carbines for \$55 each. At the time, Fuller was acting as Colt’s agent in Texas and other parts of the south. Zabriskie was Colt’s agent in New York City.
 193 “*Never was a band of Indians more surprised*”: Sowell, 320.
 193 “*I will never again fight Jack Hays*”: Fehrenbach, 476.
 193 “*Every culture or subculture*”: Ibid.
 194 “*We come now*”: Webb, *Great Plains*, 167.
 194 *So many people made their way*: *New York Herald*, 4/16/1844.
 194 “*the throwing of so much money*”: Adams quoted in Barnard, 283. See also Lundeberg, 27, 30–31, and the *Anti-Slavery Standard*, 9/22/1842.
 195 “*very beautiful and striking*”: Quoted in Lundeberg, 38.
 195 “*the galvanic process employed by Mr. Colt*”: Ibid., 49; and see Lundeberg 46, 50–52, 66.
 195 “*I do not think it in the least degree probable*”: Ibid., 50.
 195 “*justify the further consideration*”: Ibid., 53.
 196 “*novelty sufficient to sustain a patent*”: Ibid., 54.

- 196 “*take in the whole field*”: *Ibid.*, 53, 70–71.
- 197 “*I cannot see enough*”: Alvah H. Worden to William Henry Seward, 11/21/1842, Seward Family Digital Archive, www.sewardproject.org.
- 197 “*There is in the minds*”: *New-York Tribune*, 12/8/1842. The possibility that John C. Colt remained alive was raised in numerous newspaper articles.
- 198 *The only sign he ever gave*: *Anti-Slavery Standard*, 12/8/1842.
- 199 “*Nothing amuses me so much*”: Lydia Maria Child to Louise Loring, 12/18/1842. This letter is in the Lydia Maria Child Papers in the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan.
- 200 “*My heart is very full of a project*”: Lydia Maria Child to John Sullivan Dwight, 12/1/1842. This letter is online in “Digital Commonwealth, Massachusetts Collections Online” in the Anti-Slavery Collection of the Boston Public Library, digitalcommonwealth.org.
- 200 *She went, instead, to the town of Warren*: Caroline’s presence in Warren was reported in numerous newspapers, for example, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 5/31/1844.
- 201 “*This is the 3rd letter I have written to you*”: Caroline (Henshaw) Colt to SC, 4/23/1844, CHS, Box 4. This letter in CHS is a Xerox copy. The original is in CSL, where it was incorrectly dated 9/23/1844.
- 202 “*I have two objects then*”: Christopher Colt to SC, 4/9/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 202 “*hard times & the blue devil*”: James Colt to SC, 1/17/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 202 “*But never mind*”: James Colt to SC, 6/5/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 202 “*It is so long since I have heard directly*”: William Colt to SC, 7/11/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 203 “*I would serve you*”: SC to William Colt, 7/21/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 204 “*This or its equivalent*”: SC to Thomas Smith, 7/31/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 204 “*I am most damned hard up in money matters*”: SC to Charles Miller, 12/14/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 204 “*I would not trouble you*”: SC to Charles Miller, 1/30/1845, CHS, Box 4.
- 205 “*I am entirely out of funds*”: SC to Roswell Colt, 2/15/1845, Roswell L. Colt Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Box 4.
- 205 “*The Secretaries of War and of the Navy*”: *Brooklyn Eagle*, 3/19/1845.
- 205 *Moore wrote to tell Colt*: E. W. Moore to SC, 3/11/1845, CHS, Box 4.
- 205 “*My mind & time*”: SC to Robert Carrick, 3/5/1845, CHS, Box 4.
- 206 *He began by denouncing*: Howe, 701–2.
- 206 *Over the previous year, Morse had enjoyed*: Silverman, 236–40.
- 206 “*Man to See*”: DeVoto, *Year of Decision*, 240; Silverman, 259–61.
- 207 “*I called twice yesterday*”: SC to Kendall, 4/5/1845, CHS, Box 4.
- 208 *With Kendall acting as agent*: Draft of Agreement, 5/8/1845, CHS, Box 4.
- 208 “*bold the monopoly*”: SC to Samuel Whitney, 6/17/1845, CHS, Box 5.
- 209 “*If you want to save her character*”: James Colt to SC, 10/11/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 209 “*of a delicate nature*”: *New Orleans Daily Picayune*, 5/28/1845.
- 209 “*The ball struck the abdomen*”: *Boston Daily Atlas*, 6/2/1845, reprint from *St. Louis Reporter*, 5/21/1845.
- 209 “*Dueling at best is a relic*”: James Colt to SC, 2/15/1844, CHS, Box 4.
- 209 “*which . . . is not true*”: James Colt to SC, 5/31/1845, CHS, Box 4.
- 210 *According to one newspaper account*: *London True Sun*, 12/17/1846. See also *New London Morning News*, 8/4/1845; *New York Spectator*, 7/30/1845; *New York Commercial Advertiser*, 9/25/1845.
- 211 *The story, according to various accounts*: *Baltimore Sun*, 8/20/1845; *New York Herald*, 8/20/1845; 8/22/1845; *Brooklyn Evening Star*, 8/20/1845.
- 211 *Along with books, the store sold guns*: *Daily National Intelligencer*, 8/19/1845.

- 211 *The news of his son's death traveled*: Silverman, 266–67.
- 212 *In a letter to a Hartford surgeon*: SC to E. E. Marcy, 9/11/1845, CHS, Box 5.
- 213 *Alfred Vail, who was in a position*: Alfred Vail to SC, 12/14/1845, CHS, Box 5. See also *New York Herald*, 1/12/1846; 2/24/1846.
- 213 *"I have all the wire insulated"*: SC to E. E. Marcy, 9/11/1845, CHS, Box 5.
- 213 *"red cedar or locust"*: SC to John T. Smith (of Smith & Hudson in Boston), 9/29/1845, CHS, Box 5.
- 213 *Robinson rented an office*: For details about the office, see William Robinson to SC, in several letters from November and December of 1845, CHS, Box 5.
- 213 *"that this mode of instantaneous communication"*: *New York Daily Herald*, 11/26/1845.
- 214 *The problem of crossing the Hudson*: Thompson, 45–46.
- 214 *"so as to insure the transmission"*: *Washington Union*, 10/25/1845, reprint of *New York Morning News*.
- 214 *"LIGHTENING UNDER WATER"*: *Brooklyn Evening Star*, 10/24/1845; see also *New York Commercial Advertiser*, 10/24/1845.

Eleven: Year of Decision

- 217 *"a period when the manifold possibilities"*: DeVoto, *Year of Decision*, 4.
- 218 *"It is much more important"*: Quoted in Howe, 706.
- 218 *"final consumption"*: Grant, 37.
- 218 *"The United States will conquer"*: Quoted in Howe, 821.
- 219 *"When I go out of the house for a walk"*: Thoreau, 157.
- 219 *"It is time now"*: Quoted in Howe, 703.
- 219 *"America in 1846"*: O'Sullivan, 57–65.
- 220 *By one count*: Morgan, 116.
- 220 *The largest expenditure*: Faragher, 21–22; and see Parkman, 25, and Morgan, 134.
- 220 *Early guidebooks*: DeVoto, *Year of Decision*, 219, 509n.
- 220 *"paraded a revolver in his belt"*: Quoted in Morgan, 103.
- 221 *Many of the frustrations*: Thompson, 46, 59–60, 67.
- 222 *"A more desolate location"*: Charles L. Chapin, "Personal Recollections of the Early Days of the Telegraph," *Manufacturer and Builder* 22 (September 1890): 204.
- 222 *The biggest problem for Colt's telegraph*: Colt's triumphs and travails were recounted in numerous press reports, for example, *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 10/29/1845, and *New York Daily Herald*, 12/31/1845.
- 222 *"every dam glass of liquor"*: Louis Chateau to SC, 1/7/1846, CHS, Box 5.
- 222 *"We are sick of it"*: Hudson and Smith to SC, 2/25/1846, CHS, Box 5.
- 223 *He prepared a grandly visionary prospectus*: "Estimates for constructing Lines of Telegraph," 5/14/1846, CHS, Box 5. See also Edwards, 206–7.
- 223 *"I would not live as I have"*: William Robinson to SC, 5/6/1846, CHS, Box 5.
- 223 *"We were sent to provoke a fight"*: Grant, 45.
- 224 *But as the war got under way*: Howe, 748.
- 225 *"as brave a man as ever breathed"*: *New York Herald*, 5/19/1846.
- 225 *"It is told of him"*: *Scioto (OH) Gazette*, 3/24/1847.
- 225 *"chivalry and noble deeds"*: Quoted in Ivey, 242. Samuel Walker expressed a desire for "that unextinguishable love of chivalric immortal fame" in a letter to his sister-in-law Ann Walker, 1/22/1842. And in a letter to Ann Walker on 2/15/1843, Samuel's brother Jonathan Walker recounts, "Sam has done some of the greatest exploits he ever heard of." The letters are in the Samuel Hamilton Walker Papers in the Texas State Archives.

- 225 “*War is his element*”: Ivey, 240.
- 226 *Shortly after arriving at*: Walker’s exploits in the war are detailed in Utley, *Lone Star Justice*, 59–61, and extensively in Ivey.
- 226 “*did not distinguish himself*”: *New-York Tribune*, 5/18/1846; 5/20/1846.
- 226 “*coolly announced he was going through them*”: Ivey, 257–58 (ebook; page numbers approximate).
- 227 “*What General Taylor’s feelings*”: Grant, 58.
- 228 “*his unerring five-shooter*”: *Charleston (SC) Daily Courier*, 10/27/1846; and see Ivey, 263.
- 228 “*wild and picturesque*”: Quoted in Ivey, 264. See also *New-York Tribune*, 5/19/1846; 6/1/1846; *New York Herald*, 5/20/1846; *Baltimore Daily Commercial*, 10/30/1846; *New Orleans Times Picayune*, 5/13/1846.
- 228 “*This is the tribute Freedom sends*”: *New Orleans Daily Delta*, 5/20/1846.
- 228 “*Believing you may have it*”: Colt, *Sam Colt’s Own Record*, 5–6. All letters in *Sam Colt’s Own Record* are transcribed from the Samuel Colt Papers in the Connecticut Historical Society.
- 228 “*rascal*” and a “*bad man*”: John C. Rives to James K. Polk, 3/17/1845, in Cutler and Hall, 202.
- 229 “*As a scout, or skirmisher*”: *Barre (MA) Patriot*, 7/3/1846.
- 230 “*mercenary swaggerstick*”: Reinhardt, “To a Distant and Perilous Service,” *American Heritage* 30, no. 4 (June/July 1979).
- 230 “*Roast beef and two dollars*”: *Ibid.*
- 230 “*In tendering you my services*”: SC to J. D. Stevenson, 7/1/1846, CHS, Box 5.
- 231 “*I ought not to be taxed*”: Hamilton to SC, 7/17/1846, CHS, Box 5.
- 231 “*Be kind enough to inform me*”: SC to Hamilton, 7/25/1846, CHS, Box 5.
- 231 “*spanking twelve-knot breeze*”: *New-York Tribune*, 9/28/1846.
- 232 *For those already at the end*: Many wonderful narratives have been written of the journey west in 1846. My account relies primarily on Frank McLynn’s *Wagons West*; Edwin Bryant’s *What I Saw in California*; and on descriptions in DeVoto, Morgan, and Meldahl.
- 232 “*long and some what perilous Journey*”: Quoted in Morgan, 134.
- 233 “*The Indians shoot the arrow*”: Bryant, 114.
- 233 “*Boys, place me behind that ledge*”: Quoted in Utley, *Lone Star Justice*, 71.
- 233 *When the Mexicans asked to negotiate*: Ivey, 269.
- 233 “*for I regret to report . . . shameful atrocities*”: Quoted in Utley, *Lone Star Justice*, 41.
- 234 “*They were warmly greeted*”: *New Orleans Daily Intelligencer*, 11/21/1846.
- 234 “*The vast ball rang*”: *Ohio Statesman*, 11/30/1846.
- 234 “*I have so often heard you spoken of*”: Colt, *Sam Colt’s Own Record*, 7–9.
- 235 “*In compliance with your request*”: *Ibid.*, 9–10.

Twelve: Now Is the Time

- 237 “*for the immediate construction*”: Colt, *Sam Colt’s Own Record*, 24–27.
- 238 “*General Scott don’t approve*”: *Arkansas State Democrat*, 1/29/1847.
- 238 “*They are as effective*”: Samuel Walker to Jonathan T. Walker, 10/5/1847, Samuel Hamilton Walker Papers, Texas State Archives.
- 238 “*It would take a Texan*”: Quoted in online catalog of “The Price of Freedom: Americans at War,” amhistory.si.edu.
- 239 “*The powder flasks you propose*”: Colt, *Sam Colt’s Own Record*, 47–48, 75.
- 240 “*Be kind enough to inform me*”: *Ibid.*, 13.
- 240 “*I shalnot save one dollar*”: *Ibid.*, 31.
- 240 “*I repeat the assurance*”: *Ibid.*, 43.

- 241 "I arrived here today": Ibid., 54.
- 241 "Do for heavens Sake": Ibid., 55.
- 241 "They of course expect": Ibid., 64–65.
- 241 "I have nothing more to write": Ibid., 74–75. See also *Natchez (MS) Daily Courier*, 5/7/1847. Walker and 150 men left in the steamer *Mary Kingsland* on May 3, 1847, for Veracruz.
- 242 "common wood ashes": Colt, *Sam Colt's Own Record*, 66–67.
- 242 *Altogether, nearly eleven hundred*: The number commonly given is 1,100, but Charles W. Pate asserts there could not have been more than 90 extras and were probably no more than 80, putting the total production number at about 1,085. See Pate's *Colt's Walker Army Revolver*, 80.
- 242 "I got 28,000 dollars": Colt, *Sam Colt's Own Record*, 146n.
- 243 *But on July 13, Secretary Marcy*: Haven and Belden, 289.
- 243 "I regret my Son": Christopher Colt to SC, 1/18/1847, CHS, Box 5.
- 243 "I am perfectly satisfied": SC to Ethelinda Selden, 2/5/1847, CHS, Box 5.
- 243 "My mother desires me to say": George Selden to SC, 2/10/1847, CHS, Box 5.
- 243 *Instead, he wrote to Dudley*: SC to Dudley Selden, 5/24/1847, CHS, Box 5.
- 243 "The more I have thought": SC to Dudley Selden, 7/15/1847, CHS, Box 5.
- 244 "not to exceed": Quoted in Hosley, 230n.
- 244 *Hartford grew rapidly*: Ibid., 55–57.
- 245 "Surveyors and Officers": William Fink to SC, 10/18/1847, CSL, Box 8.
- 245 "to be placed in possession": Jesse Leigh to SC, 10/23/1847, CSL, Box 8.
- 246 *Walker did finally receive*: Samuel Walker to Jonathan T. Walker, 10/5/1847, Samuel Hamilton Walker Papers, Texas State Archives. See also Colt, *Sam Colt's Own Record*, 97, which suggests that the pistols had been sent to Walker by James Colt on 7/28/1847.
- 246 "If I had my Revolving Pistols": Samuel Walker to Jonathan T. Walker, 10/5/1847, Samuel Hamilton Walker Papers, Texas State Archives.
- 246 *Four days later*: Ivey, 278–80.
- 247 "Although your captain has fallen": *New York Herald*, 11/14/1847.
- 247 "Boys, forward": *Baltimore Sun*, 11/16/1847.
- 247 "Don't surrender, boys": Ivey, 277–78. See also *Daily National Whig*, 11/12/1847; 11/16/1847; *Vicksburg (MS) Sentinel*, 11/10/1847; and *Mississippi Free Trader (Natchez)*, 11/16/1847.
- 247 *The infantry did come*: Ivey, 278–79.
- 247 "one of those rare moments": Brands, *Age of Gold*, 23. See also Howe, 813.
- 248 "Now is the time": SC to C. B. Zabriskie, 12/11/1847, CSL, typescript, Box 7. This letter is quoted in Edwards, 232.

Thirteen: Oh! This California

- 249 "We have received": *New York Herald*, 9/15/1848.
- 249 "Were I a New Yorker": *New York Herald*, 9/17/1848.
- 250 "I must creep before I walk": Quoted in Edwards, 232.
- 251 "I wish you would write the President": SC to Ben McCulloch, 3/23/1848, CHS, Box 6.
- 251 "blunt, frank, and out-spoken": *New York Times*, 8/5/1857.
- 251 "In early life he frequently gave way": *Evening Star*, 8/5/1857.
- 251 "believing as I do": Thomas Rusk to SC, 5/26/1846, CHS, Box 5.
- 252 "whoever supposes that placing": Quoted in Lewis, 61.
- 252 "Having spent many years": Thomas Rusk to James K. Polk, 8/15/1848, CHS, Box 6. This letter is quoted in full in Edwards, 244.

- 253 *"The accounts of the abundance of gold"*: Polk's Fourth Annual Message to Congress, delivered 12/5/1848, can be seen in full at the Miller Center website, millercenter.org/the-presidency. See also Howe, 813–22.
- 254 *"I saw that politeness and reason"*: Thomas Rusk to SC, 12/27/1848, CHS, Box 6.
- 254 *"No conclusion was come to"*: Sam Houston to SC, 12/27/1848, CHS, Box 6.
- 254 *"My dear Colt, A Happy New Year!"*: John Howard Payne to SC, 1/8/1849, CHS, Box 6. A copy of the letter is also in the John Howard Payne letter books, John Howard Payne Papers, Hargrett Library, University of Georgia (hereafter *Payne letter books*).
- 254 *"I have myself shared"*: John Howard Payne to SC, 1/1/1843, Payne letter books.
- 254 *"I tried to forget"*: John Howard Payne to SC, 6/1/1845, Payne letter books.
- 255 *"I have pawned away"*: John Howard Payne to SC, 8/11/1848, Payne letter books.
- 255 *"rely on my arranging all"*: John Howard Payne to SC, 1/8/1849, CHS, Box 6.
- 255 *She was a miniaturist*: The best treatment I have found of Freeman is Robertson's "Anna Mary Freeman's Room," 45–46.
- 256 *Daniel Webster was said*: *Ibid.*, 46.
- 256 *"a woman in every port"*: James Colt to SC, 7/26/1854, CSL, Box 10.
- 256 *"I must frankly own"*: John Howard Payne to SC, 1/23/1849, Payne letter books.
- 257 *"endowed with a rare"*: Brief company biography of Elisha K. Root, CSL, Box 55.
- 258 *"The next morning"*: Quoted in Moore, 33.
- 258 *"as a matter of duty"*: Barnard, 259.
- 258 *"The credit for the revolver"*: Joseph Wickham Roe quoted in Uselding, 543.
- 258 *"a museum of curious machinery"*: *Hartford Courant*, 1/5/1849.
- 258 *"He has a dozen orders"*: *Manchester Telescope*, 2/10/1849.
- 259 *"Probably our city"*: *Hartford Courant*, 1/5/1849.
- 259 *"Revolutionary times in Europe"*: George Sanders to SC, 3/23/1848, CHS, Box 6.
- 259 *"I believe that there will be"*: James Colt to SC, 9/13/1848, CSL, Box 8.
- 260 *Young America took its name*: For full treatments of the Young America movement see Widmer's *Young America: The Flowering of Democracy in New York*, 190–201; and Eyal's *Young America Movement and the Transformation of the Democratic Party, 1828–1861*, 93, 99–100.
- 261 *Three times as many ships*: Burrows and Wallace, 653.
- 261 *"lightning speed to all"*: SC to Elisha Colt, 6/12/1849, CSL, Box 6.
- 262 *"This town or rather city"*: SC to Elisha Colt, 7/18/1849, CSL, Box 6.
- 262 *"making money"*: Quoted in Hosley, 26.
- 263 *Ships were delayed in port*: *Boston Atlas*, 1/24/1849.
- 263 *The voyage around South America*: See Howe, 816, for comparison of land versus sea travel.
- 263 *According to one estimate*: Unruh, 185; see also Unruh, 175–85. And see Howe, 817.
- 263 *less than four hundred*: Unruh, 408.
- 264 *whites had more to fear*: *Ibid.*, 410–12.
- 264 *"Bibles, tracts, and religious books"*: *Episcopal Recorder*, 1/20/1849.
- 264 *"when the strong . . . were law"*: Brown, 149.
- 264 *"The town was full of gamblers"*: Eldredge, 598–99. See also Brands, *Age of Gold*, 250–52.
- 266 *"Let no act of violence"*: *Mississippian*, 8/17/1849. On Gwin, see also Brands, *Age of Gold*, 277–78.
- 266 *"I will state that Colt's repeating pistols"*: Senator W. M. Gwin to President of the United States, February 1850 (No. 10). United States Senate, *In the Senate of the United States, 31st Congress, 2nd Session*, 8. This document includes nearly a hundred testimonials from military and civilian leaders in favor of Colt's repeating firearms.
- 266 *One measure of the value*: For examples of prices, see *Detroit Free Press*, 5/31/1849, and

- Bangor Whig & Courier*, 8/2/1849. See also United States Senate, *In the Senate of the United States*, 31st Congress, 2nd Session, 31, in which T. Butler King, collector of the Port of San Francisco, states that Colt pistols were selling among California miners for “\$250 to \$500—according to size.”
- 266 *According to Colt*: SC to unknown recipient, 2/5/1854, CSL, typescript, Box 7. See also Rosa, 68.
- 267 “*Sir, your fellow citizens*”: This letter was printed in many US newspapers, including the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, 11/12/1849.
- 267 *A native of Kentucky*: Sanders is treated in detail in John S. Galbraith, “George N. Sanders, ‘Influence Man’ for the Hudson’s Bay Company,” *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 53, no. 3 (September 1952): 159–76. See also Widmer, 190–201, and Eyal, 93, 99–100.
- 268 *We know about the snuff box*: *Hartford Courant*, 4/27/1850.

Fourteen: Guns in the Crystal Palace

- 271 “*a fairy palace*”: *Punch* 19 (1850): 81.
- 272 “*I think the first impression*”: Carroll, 11–12 (letter dated 7/5/1851).
- 272 “*Britain was the world’s great manufactory*”: Cunliffe, 117.
- 272 “*colonial possessions*”: Royal Commission, 157.
- 273 “*under its everlasting canopy*”: *New York Daily Herald*, 1/9/1851 (reprint from the *London Times*).
- 273 “*gigantic humbug*”: *New York Daily Herald*, 5/1/1851.
- 273 “*It was about five years*”: *Ibid.*
- 273 “*By packing up American articles*”: *Punch* 20 (1851): 246.
- 274 “*The Leg of a Multiplication Table*”: *Ibid.*, 218.
- 274 “*We have the Greek Captive*”: *Ibid.*, 209.
- 275 “*At once set at work*”: SC to Thomas Peard, 3/15/1851, Yale, Box 1.
- 275 “*the most influential men*”: Thomas Peard to SC, 5/6/1851, Yale, Box 1.
- 275 “*Scarcely a week passes*”: *London Daily News*, 3/5/1851.
- 276 “*Caring little about the length*”: *Ibid.*, 6/13/1851.
- 276 *An 1851 letter book of Massachusetts Arms*: Massachusetts Arms Collection, Springfield History Library & Archives, Box 1.
- 277 “*a poet in wood and steel*”: Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 4. Rywell’s book contains the full trial transcript, which was originally published by Colt himself as *Samuel Colt vs. The Mass. Arms Company* (Boston: White and Potter, 1851). Quotes are directly from the transcript.
- 278 “*He was at the time*”: Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 7.
- 278 “*to these arms Texas*”: *Ibid.*, 9.
- 278 “*Now he sees the golden apple*”: *Ibid.*, 10.
- 279 “*Is a lever substantially*”: *Ibid.*, 92–93.
- 280 *If we consider what was at stake*: See pg. 76 (and endnote for that page) regarding incorrectly dated receipts.
- 280 “*by the next stroke of the telegraph*”: Rywell, *Trial of Samuel Colt*, 207.
- 280 “*in pickle early*”: *Ibid.*, 211.
- 281 “*It may be, gentlemen*”: *Ibid.*, 286.
- 282 “*The traveler of the great prairies*”: *Ibid.*, 289.
- 282 “*because the plaintiff stands alone*”: *Ibid.*, 314–15.
- 282 “*The demand for this arm is so great*”: *Hartford Courant*, 8/9/1851.
- 283 *That summer, Collins’s ships had broken*: *London Times*, 9/2/1851.

- 283 “*as kind and attentive as possible*”: John Colt to Eliza(beth) Colt, 8/11/1851, New Jersey Historical Society, Manuscript Group 636.
- 283 *The weather was sunny and fine: London Daily News*, 8/23/1851.
- 284 “*The America soon began to feel*”: *Lloyd’s Weekly*, 8/24/1851. See also Morris, 241.
- 284 *Great crowds now gathered: London Daily News*, 9/11/1851.
- 284 “*in unmeasured approbation*”: N. S. Dodge, “Recollections of the Great Exhibition,” *Daily National Intelligencer*, 1/9/1852.
- 285 *The voyage had taken*: John Colt to Eliza(beth) Colt, 8/27/1851, New Jersey Historical Society, Manuscript Group 636.
- 285 *The Observer pointed out: London Observer*, 9/7/1851.
- 285 “*As for yachts, we have no doubt*”: *London Times*, 9/2/1851.
- 285 “*The good people of this world*”: SC to Charles Manby, 5/18/1852, CHS, Box 7.
- 286 “*Recently America has been put*”: *Boston Zion’s Herald*, 10/1/1851.
- 286 “*We cannot help expressing our opinion*”: *British Army Dispatch*, 11/7/1851, reprinted in *Spirit of the Times* (New York), 12/13/1851.
- 286 “*They make one man equal*”: *Ibid.*
- 287 *Colt’s talk*: This was published in the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers* 11 (November 25, 1851), then later as a book: Samuel Colt, *On the Application of Machinery to the Manufacture of Rotating Chambered-Breech Fire-Arms, and Their Peculiarities*.
- 287 “*of most extensive frontier*”: Colt, *On the Application*, 8.
- 287 “*In America, where manual labor*”: *Ibid.*, 13.
- 288 “*In fact, all the separate parts*”: *Ibid.*
- 288 “*except for protections*”: *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers* 11 (November 25, 1851) (London: Institution of Civil Engineers, 1852).
- 288 “*OH! Colonel Colt*”: *Punch* 22 (1852): 36.

Fifteen: The Anthem of Bang

- 294 “*exalted, heroic, and invincible*”: Quoted in Hosley, 98.
- 295 “*You must keep the thing*”: Quoted in Edwards, 297.
- 295 *Colt’s friend Commodore Matthew C. Perry*: SC to M. C. Perry, 4/10/1852, CHS, Box 7.
- 295 *Colt assured them*: SC to Thomas Peard, 11/29/1852, Yale, Box 1. See also SC to Thompson, Watson and Co., 9/1/1852, Yale, Box 1.
- 296 *A few winters earlier: Hartford Courant*, 1/25/1848. And see Hosley, 98–104.
- 296 *On May 17, he received a bill*: John Workman to SC, 5/17/1852, CHS, Box 7.
- 296 “*Prince Albert himself*”: John Workman to SC, 6/14/1852, CHS, Box 7.
- 296 “*tolerably good*”: SC to Helger & Co., 8/9/1852, CHS, Box 7.
- 297 “*So you must go there*”: SC to Lewis Carr, 8/9/1852, CHS, 7.
- 297 “*big and capacious apartments*”: *New York Herald*, 7/26/1851.
- 297 “*a young planter*”: *Daily Journal of Wilmington (NC)*, 8/16/1852.
- 297n See Adam Nossiter’s *Of Long Memory: Mississippi and the Murder of Medgar Evers* (New York: Da Capo Press, 1994).
- 298 *When southern newspapers caught wind: Richmond Dispatch*, 8/16/1852.
- 298 “*and wo to any would-be*”: *New-York Tribune*, 8/6/1852. See also *New York Herald*, 7/26/1851, for a description of summer life in Newport.
- 298 “*nor did we abstain*”: Leland, 199.
- 299 “*Every little coterie*”: *New York Daily Herald*, 9/5/1848.
- 299 “*The two Misses Jarvis*”: *Hartford Courant*, 8/9/1852.
- 299 “*They even effect more terrible mischief*”: *London Morning Chronicle*, 9/21/1851.

- 299 “dazzling scene of beauty”: *Boston Daily Times*, 9/4/1852.
- 300 “I shall want a first rate suite”: SC to Charles Dennet, 9/20/1852, CHS, Box 7.
- 301 “Ned they say”: SC to Edward Dickerson, 11/17/1852, CHS, Box 7.
- 301 “It makes the bulls stare”: Alvord quoted in Rosa, 49. For a description of the London armory, see Morris, 252–62.
- 301 “It is so well ordered”: *Sheffield and Rotterdam Independent*, 4/7/1855, quoting *The Builder* (London).
- 301 “The system of employing”: Quoted in Rosa, 57.
- 302 “delicate-handed little girls”: Quoted in Morris, 258–59.
- 302 “In those American tools”: *Ibid.*, 258.
- 302 “the most infernal”: Quoted in Houze, 123.
- 302 “I sent my neffue”: SC to John Sainthill, 3/17/1853, CSL, typescript, Box 7. Scan of original in my possession.
- 303 “Rec’d of Sam Colt”: Dickerson Record Book I, 1846–57, entry dated 12/9/1851, New Jersey Historical Society, Manuscript Group 97. Also, on 1/3/1852, Dickerson writes, “I paid to Julia Lester on order of Sam Colt—\$200.00.”
- 303 *A letter written by Julia*: Julia Leicester to SC, 2/6/1858, CHS, Box 7.
- 303 *As Edwards tells it*: Edwards, 309.
- 303 *side-by-side comparison*: Caroline’s letter is dated 4/23/1844 (CHS, Box 4); Julia’s letters are dated 2/6/1858 and 7/5/1858 (CHS, Box 7). The letters are fourteen years apart, which could account some difference of penmanship and style of expression. Nonetheless, I believe it is clear they were written by different people.
- 304 “Sammy’s book education”: SC to John Sainthill, 3/17/1853, CSL, typescript, Box 7. Scan of original in my possession.
- 304 *much to the astonishment*: Hosley, 104.
- 304 *What Colt was up to*: *Ibid.*, 101–6, for details on Colt’s machinations in the South Meadow.
- 305 “grossly abusive attack”: *Ibid.*, 102.
- 305 “nor have I ever”: *Hartford Courant*, 9/19/1853.
- 305 *Later, stories would circulate*: Edwards, 315, and Hosley, 238n.
- 305 *At the very least, Colt exerted pressure*: *New London (CT) Weekly*, 9/22/1853.
- 305 “intelligence and respectability”: Quoted in Hosley, 104.
- 306 “in a handsome manner”: *Hartford Courant*, 10/15/1853.
- 306 “You will see by the papers”: James Colt to SC, 3/8/1849, CSL, typescript, Box 7.
- 306 “{M}y personal enemies are beginning”: James Colt to SC, 2/26/1849, CSL, Box 8.
- 307 “If you were to follow”: James Colt to SC, 5/20/46, CSL, Box 8.
- 307 “girlish”: James Colt to SC, 5/26/1843, CSL, Box 8.
- 307 “the most pleasurable”: James Colt to SC, 11/6/1849, CSL, Box 8.
- 307 *By his own calculation*: James Colt to SC, 5/3/1852, CSL, Box 9.
- 307 “I don’t see how it is possible”: James Colt to SC, 3/16/53, CSL, Box 9.
- 307 “What I want you to do”: SC to James Colt, 8/23/1853, CSL, Box 6.
- 308 “a model of completeness”: Stocqueler, 206–7.
- 309 “He is driving all parts”: Quoted in Rosa, 66–67.
- 309 “Col. Samuel Colt, a citizen”: *Ibid.*, 68–69.
- 309 “His Royal Highness”: *Ibid.*, 67.
- 311 “Come on then, Gentlemen”: Quoted in Potter, 199.
- 311 “We went to bed one night”: Quoted in Wineapple, 72.
- 311 “bullies of Missouri”: *Pittsburgh Gazette*, 7/4/1854.
- 312 “the severest fresher”: *Hartford Courant*, 5/6/1854. See also Hosley, 106–8.
- 312 “tested to some degree”: *Boston Herald*, 5/19/1854, quoting *Hartford Times*.

- 312 *On July 4, 1854: Hartford Courant*, 7/6/1854; *Hartford Times*, 7/8/1854.
- 313 “*You have been away*”: Edward Dickerson to SC, 2/17/1853, CHS, Box 7.
- 313 “*Resolved, That a committee*”: United States House of Representatives, 1.
- 313 “*costly and extravagant entertainments*”: *Ibid.*, 4.
- 313 “*It has been the habit*”: *Ibid.*, 25.
- 314 “*contingent fees*”: *Ibid.*, 5, 62.
- 314 “*If we win*”: Edward Dickerson to SC, 1/15/1854, CHS, Box 7.
- 314 *Colt arrived in Washington: Washington Evening Star*, 7/14/1854.
- 314 “*If any unlawful means*”: United States House of Representatives, 35.
- 314 “*slightly excited*”: *New York Times*, 2/5/1855.
- 315 “*She always carries*”: *Kenosha (WI) Telegraph*, 10/7/1853.
- 315 “*There are probably in Texas*”: Olmsted, 75. Frederick Law Olmsted was a native of Hartford and knew Colt personally. It appears that Colt encouraged Olmsted to write positively of Colt’s revolvers. In a letter to Colt in 1853 (Frederick Law Olmsted to SC, 9/1/1853, CSL, Box 9), responding to documents Colt had sent him, Olmsted wrote, “If you will inform me that the manuscript article is not to be published in any other form I will embody the greater part of it in my Report. I would suggest if you have in a form convenient for sending me, that you supply me with some feats with regard to the success of your arms in Europe, results of trials by British officers, their employment last year at the Cape, etc.”
- 315–16 “*came galloping and tearing*”: Carvalho, 96–98.
- 316 “*It is to be understood*”: *New York Times*, 5/3/1854.
- 316 *By 1854 there were fifty-two*: Utley, *Frontiersmen in Blue*, 108.
- 317 “*great reason to fear*”: *New York Times*, 9/14/1854.
- 317 *Harney was in Paris that fall*: Adams, *General William S. Harney*, 118–19.

Sixteen: Emperor of the South Meadows

- 319 *Colt would supply*: Rosa, 83.
- 320 *On November 6*: White, 42.
- 320 “*It is not true*”: *London Times*, 12/28/1854.
- 321 *an order for one thousand*: Haven and Belden, 389.
- 321 “*a most charming*”: *Hartford Courant*, 4/20/1855.
- 321 “*such as a Titan might*”: *Hartford Courant*, 4/17/1855.
- 321 “*something quite Napoleonic*”: *Hartford Courant*, 7/16/1855.
- 322 “*Poor Christopher*”: James Colt to SC, 5/31/1855, CSL, Box 10.
- 322 “*in a very excited state*”: Harry Beach to SC, 6/15/1855, CSL, Box 10.
- 322 “*This living without one’s wife*”: James Colt to SC, 7/26/1854, CSL, Box 10.
- 323 “*There can be no doubt*”: James Colt to SC, 7/24/1855, CSL, typescript, Box 7. See also James Colt to SC, 8/2/1855, CSL, Box 10.
- 324 *On June 5, Colt’s secretary and chief aid*: Milton Joslin to SC, 6/5/1855, CSL, Box 10. The smuggling and confiscation is covered in Rosa, 96, and Houze, 188–89.
- 325 “*By God,*” *he was heard to utter*: Quoted in Utley, *Frontiersmen in Blue*, 115. Harney’s attack at Blue Water Creek is covered in Utley, *Frontiersmen in Blue*, 115–19; Andrist, 24–25; Adams, *General William S. Harney*, 125–26; and, most extensively, in R. Eli Paul’s *Blue Water Creek and the First Sioux War, 1854–1856*.
- 325 “*The great extent*”: Quoted in Ball, xx–xxi.
- 325 *Many American military leaders*: See Barton, 495–510.
- 327 “*The weather was elegant*”: Quoted in Dudley, 373–99.
- 327 “*There are those damned*”: Quoted in Paul, 90.

- 327 “*Suddenly debouching*”: *New Orleans Crescent*, 10/2/1855.
- 328 “*as fine a specimen*”: Ibid.
- 328 “*They charge them*”: Quoted in Utley, *Frontiersmen in Blue*, 26–27.
- 328 “*As I looked around*”: Quoted in Paul, 101.
- 328 “*There was much slaughter*”: Quoted in Utley, *Frontiersmen in Blue*, 117.
- 328 “*I was disgusted*”: Warren, xvi. See also Paul, 104.
- 329 “*I anticipate soon*”: SC to James Colt, 9/15/1855, CSL, Box 6. See Rosa, 97.
- 329 “*If you come*”: SC to James Colt, 9/21/1855, CSL, Box 6.
- 329 “*guarantee that your interest*”: SC to James Colt, 9/18/1855, CSL, 2, Box 6.
- 329 “*It is very evident*”: James Colt to SC, 9/24/1855, CSL, 3, Box 10.
- 330 “*You don’t seem*”: James Colt to SC, 9/2/1855, CSL, 3, Box 10.
- 331 “*the masterly combining*”: Burlingame, *Backgrounds of Power*, 136, 139.
- 331 “*the most advanced*”: Morris, 255.
- 332 “*Emperor of the South Meadows*”: *Hartford Courant*, 8/11/1855.
- 332 “*as robust, happy, and intelligent a body*”: Alden, 7.
- 333 *She later claimed*: Hosley, 81, 235n.
- 333 “*the green-house*”: Quoted in Granston, 20.
- 333 “*My sweet friend*”: Lydia Sigourney to Elizabeth Colt, 5/29/1856, Yale, Box 5.
- 333 *Colt gave them plenty*: See for example the *Hartford Courant*, 6/5/1856; 6/7/1856.
- 334 “*the tremulous voice*”: Lydia Sigourney to Elizabeth Colt, 7/31/1856, Yale, Box 5.
- 334 *Guests were served . . . an enormous cake*: *Hartford Courant*, 6/9/1856.
- 335 *Colt was in Washington*: Colt’s presence at the Willard is established in *Evening Star*, 5/24/1856. His pressing for an extension of patents is in *New York Herald*, 5/27/1856.
- 335 “*Some members fear*”: James Colt to SC, 12/28/1855, CSL, typescript, Box 7.
- 335 “*Be governed*”: SC to James Colt, “Letters of Col. Colt to J. B. Colt 1856,” typescript, Box 7.
- 336 “*The object of this letter*”: James Colt to SC, 6/4/1856, CSL, typescript, Box 7.
- 336 “*We have the most charming*”: Hetty Jarvis, 6/17/1856, Yale, Box 2.
- 336 “*The Col. is the kindest*”: Hetty Jarvis, 6/13/1856, Yale, Box 2.
- 336 “*There never was*”: Hetty Jarvis, 6/17/1856, Box 2.
- 336 “*In the hurry of leaving*”: SC to Milton Joslin, 6/15/1856, CHS, Box 7.
- 337 “*I grieve almost to death*”: SC to Milton Joslin, 7/12/1856, CHS, Box 7.
- 337 “*money is no consideration*”: SC to Thomas Seymour, 6/21/56, 7/7/56, Yale, Box 2.
- 338 “*most magnificent pageants*”: Quoted in Hosley, 31.
- 338 “*This is without exception*”: SC to Milton Joslin, 9/2/1856, CHS, Box 7.
- 338 “*so grate I can scarcely form*”: SC to Milton Joslin, 10/15/1856, CHS, Box 7.
- 339 “*very unfavourable tidings*”: SC to Richard Hubbard, 10/23/1856, CSL, Box 6.

Seventeen: Fathers and Sons

- 341 “*in just about the proper time*”: Quoted in Edwards, 339.
- 341 “*The Colonel . . . one of the happiest men*”: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 3/28/1857, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 341 “*more sublime than any*”: Quoted in Hosley, 61.
- 342 “*From that day to the present*”: *United States Magazine* 4 (March 1857): 231–32.
- 343 “*little attack*”: James Colt to SC, 8/24/54, typescript, CSL, Box 7.
- 343 “*You will not doubt that so far*”: James Colt to SC, 2/16/57, CSL, Box 10.
- 344 “*My dear Nephew*”: SC to Sammy Colt, 3/31/57, Museum of Connecticut History.
- 344 “*I have received of late*”: SC to Sammy Colt, 7/4/1854, Museum of Connecticut History.
- 345 “*I do not wish to be harsh*”: Ibid.

- 345 “*the good, generous spirit*”: SC to Sammy Colt, 3/31/1857, Museum of Connecticut History.
- 345 “*while their letters*”: SC to Sammy Colt, 6/14/1855, Museum of Connecticut History.
- 346 “*I have endeavored to so fix*”: SC to Baron Von Oppen, 4/24/1857, CSL, Box 6.
- 346 “*a ward of Col. Colt*”: *Washington Evening Star*, 6/16/1857.
- 346 *The German marriage registration*: The transcription of this is on ancestry.com, under “German, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1518–1921.”
- 347 “*If Col. Colt is a relative of hers*”: Julia Leicester to SC, 2/6/1858 (date uncertain), CHS, Box 7.
- 347 “*It is my express wish*”: SC to C. F. Wappenhaus, 7/27/57, CSL, Box 6.
- 348 *Some historians argue*: Calomiris and Schweikart, 807–34 (see especially 816).
- 348 *The bigblight of Sumner’s campaign*: Utley, *Frontiersmen in Blue*, 122–23; Andrist, 26.
- 349 *The combined effect*: This point is made in West, 13.
- 349 *In the spring of 1857*: Unruh, 120.
- 349 “*Every man who goes*”: Marcy, 41–43; see also Marcy to SC, 10/4/1857, CSL, Box 10. Marcy and Colt were well acquainted.
- 349 “*certainly very careless*”: C. F. Wappenhaus to SC, 9/29/1857, CHS, Box 7.
- 350 *Colt had made up his mind*: SC to C. F. Wappenhaus, 10/24/1857, CHS, Box 7.
- 350 “*you will take as much*”: SC to Sammy Colt, 5/22/1857, Museum of Connecticut History.
- 350 *He was buried*: *Hartford Courant*, 12/29/1957. See also Barnard, 312.
- 350 “*A wail within the palace*”: “Samuel Jarvis Colt, Died Dec. 24th, aged 10 months” by Lilly Waters, CHS, Box 7.
- 351 *She felt, as she wrote*: Elizabeth Colt to Sammy Colt, 1/5/1858. Copy in my possession.
- 351 “*In looking into my wine*”: SC to Luther Sargeant, 2/3/1858, Yale, Box 3.
- 351 “*sundry other equally*”: SC to Luther Sargeant, 1/14/1858, Yale, Box 3.
- 351 “*These terrapins*”: SC to Luther Sargeant, 2/3/1858, Yale, Box 3.
- 352 “*It must be recollected*”: *Scientific American* 33 (April 24, 1858).
- 352 “*planning some improvement*”: Elizabeth Colt to Sammy Colt, 5/5/1858. Copy in my possession.
- 353 “*anything which might pass*”: Deane Alden to SC, 5/13/1858, CSL, Box 10.
- 354 “*write it in your best style*”: R. W. Latham to SC, 8/3/1858, CHS, Box 7; and see SC to John B. Floyd, 8/8/1858, CHS, Box 7.
- 354 “*You have in the course*”: R. W. Latham to SC, 10/9/1858, CHS, Box 7.
- 355 “*We are all pretty well now*”: Elizabeth Colt to Sammy Colt, 10/9/1858. Copy in my possession.
- 355 “*in a position which many girls*”: Julia Leicester to SC, 2/6/1858, CHS, Box 7.
- 356 “*devote all my energies*”: Baron Von Oppen to SC, 3/24/1858, CHS, Box 7.
- 356 “*A most mysterious silence*”: Baron Von Oppen to SC, 6/10/1858, CSL, Box 10. See also Baron Von Oppen to SC, 6/29/1858, CHS.
- 356 *Julia followed up*: Julia Leicester to SC, 7/5/1858, CHS, Box 7.
- 356 *He advanced Von Oppen \$1,000*: SC to Baron Von Oppen, 7/27/1858, CHS, Box 7.
- 356 *The following day this was reported*: *Hartford Courant*, 11/13/1858.
- 356 “*the whole week*”: SC to Luther Sargeant, 11/13/1858, Yale, Box 3.
- 356 “*He is a fine little fellow*”: Elizabeth Colt to Sammy Colt, 12/31/1858. Copy in my possession.

Eighteen: I Am Loth to Close

- 360 *By far his most ambitious agricultural effort*: *Hartford Courant*, 11/8/1859.

- 360 *He bought fourteen thousand acres*: Transcription of land deal in Texas, 81-2 and 81-3, CSL, typescript, Box 7.
- 360 *Starting with an initial investment*: Glaser and Thomas, 29–52.
- 361 *The most festive day*: *Hartford Courant*, 2/3/1859.
- 361 *“a large plump little boy”*: Elizabeth Colt to Sammy Colt, 2/6/1859. Copy in my possession.
- 362 *“I am very sorry”*: SC to Sammy Colt, 2/25/1859, Museum of Connecticut History.
- 362 *“Were I to neglect my duties”*: Ibid.
- 363 *“There is a hierarchy”*: Quoted in Wineapple, 189.
- 364 *Several carried Colt revolvers*: Mitchell, 32.
- 365 *“This will be a great day”*: Quoted in Wineapple, 145.
- 365 *“In this enlightened age”*: Ibid.; see also Wineapple, 143–44.
- 365 *“I want to shoot”*: Quoted in Karcher, 416 (epigraph).
- 365 *Several twenty-first-century scholars*: For example, Michael A. Bellesiles in his essay “The Origins of Gun Culture in the United States, 1760–1865,” in Dizzard, Muth, and Andrews, 34. Also Haag, xii–xxv.
- 365 *“Most of my friends”*: Quoted in DeConde, 63.
- 366 *Downer had discovered*: W. S. Downer to SC, 11/15/1859, CHS, Box 7.
- 366 *The State of Virginia immediately ordered*: Mitchell, 33–34.
- 366 *Given that just 3 percent*: McPherson, 318.
- 366 *“we will do everything”*: SC to William Hartley, 12/12/1859, CHS, Box 7.
- 366 *“a thin, keen, nervous”*: Thomas Butler Gunn Diaries, 1849–63, vol. 14, 184, December 24–25, 1860, accessed online at the Missouri Historical Society, collections.mohistory.org.
- 366 *“not quite the man”*: Quoted in Mitchell, 36–38.
- 367 *“gave him a most deserved”*: *Chicago Tribune*, 4/6/1861.
- 367 *In the spring of 1859*: *Valley Spirit* (Pennsylvania), 4/20/1859.
- 367 *“The weapons were shotguns”*: Quoted in Mitchell, 46–47.
- 367 *“Hog and Hominy is the fare”*: Ibid., 48–49.
- 368 *“It is unfortunate”*: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), dated incorrectly 12/30/1860; letter started 12/30/1859 and continued 1/1/1860; CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 368 *“the Hartford people are not all Abolitionists”*: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 12/12/1859, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 368 *“admirable sermon on the beauties”*: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 1/7/1860, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 369 *“I fully agree with you”*: SC to Philo Calhoun, 1/11/1860, CHS, Box 8. See *Hartford Courant*, 1/19/1860, for a report on the manufacturers’ convention.
- 369 *“The speech of Mr. Lincoln”*: *Hartford Courant*, 3/5/1860; 3/6/1860.
- 369 *Colt insisted in a letter*: Colt’s letter to the *Times* is reported in the *Hartford Courant*, 3/17/1860.
- 370 *“a noble, beautiful child”*: Barnard, 315; and see William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 5/13/1860, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 370 *“His improvement is constant”*: John D. Philbrick to SC, 5/30/1860, CHS, Box 8.
- 370 *“The country is alive”*: Deane Alden to SC, 3/30/1860, CHS, Box 8.
- 371 *“After the second shot”*: Quoted in Eaton, 173–92.
- 371 *“I am noticing”*: Quoted in Edwards, 349.
- 371 *“It possesses all the qualities”*: *Cincinnati Daily Press*, 5/26/1860, quoting *Hartford Times*. Colt scholar Charles Pate convincingly dismisses the idea that Root and Colt created “silver steel,” or that adding silver did anything to improve steel. Moreover, he points

- out, metallurgical analysis of an 1860 Colt Army revolver revealed that the steel in the gun is no different from the steel in Colt guns manufactured four or five years earlier.
- 371 *"The superiority of Colt's"*: The board's report, dated 5/19/1860, appears near the end of Edwards's appendix, under the heading "Special Order, No. 94." See also Haven and Belden, 99, and *New London (CT) Daily Chronicle*, 6/1/1860.
- 372 *"the unfortunate predicament"*: SC to A. G. Hazard, 7/14/1860, CHS, Box 8.
- 372 *"We trust, however"*: *Hartford Courant*, 7/17/1860.
- 373 *"His babies and servants"*: *Boston Herald*, 8/27/1860. See also *Boston Evening Transcript*, 8/27/1860, and *Providence Evening Press*, 8/27/1860.
- 373 *"For one short week"*: Elizabeth Colt to Sammy Colt, 11/16/1860. Copy in my possession.
- 373 *"convulsed with such grief"*: Barnard, 316–17.
- 374 *"gout in the stomach"*: *Boston Evening Transcript*, 10/25/1860.
- 374 *"His influence & importance"*: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 12/17/1860, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1. See also Barnard, 316.
- 374 *By the time the war*: See McPherson, 250.
- 375 *In 1860, Colt sold \$61,000 worth of guns*: Hosley, 95.
- 375 *"Every kind of business"*: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 12/17/1860, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 375 *"He will know all"*: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 12/4/1860, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 375 *"In order to prevent seizure"*: Quoted in Mitchell, 74.
- 376 *"You will do me a favor"*: *Ibid.*, 77.
- 376 *"against the Indians"*: *Ibid.*, 64.
- 376 *"bargained with Northern people"*: *New York Times*, 1/16/1861.
- 377 *"We have had a long"*: Quoted in Mitchell, 75.
- 377 *"Run the armory"*: *Ibid.*, 75–76.
- 377 *That same day*: Wineapple, 194.
- 377 *"Yours is a large"*: Phillips, *Correspondence of Robert Toombs*, 547.
- 378 *"The daily rent"*: Quoted in Mitchell, 71.
- 378 *"I was able to walk"*: SC to Hartford office, 3/23/1861, CSL, Box 6.
- 379 *He went to church*: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 4/1/1861, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 379 *"I may leave here"*: Quoted in Mitchell, 103–4.
- 379 *"It is gathered"*: *Ibid.*, 78.
- 379 *The city of New York*: Burrows and Wallace, 867.
- 379 *Some gunmakers*: Mitchell, 83–84.
- 380 *"I am off for Texas"*: *Ibid.*, 67.
- 380 *"Can you furnish"*: *Ibid.*, 77.
- 380 *"This is patriotism"*: *Chicago Tribune*, 4/24/1861.
- 380 *"The buildings of the town"*: *Hartford Courant*, 4/22/1861; 4/23/1861.
- 381 *"We are raising"*: Letters to Colt from interested buyers in April 1861 are in CSL, Box 10.
- 381 *"He has not yet learned"*: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 4/11/1861, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 382 *"I am sorry for it"*: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 4/27/1861, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 382 *In those early days*: Mitchell, 116–17.
- 382 *"succeeded in his mission to purchase"*: *Yorkville (SC) Enquirer*, 4/25/1861.

- 382 “*of fine appearance*”: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 6/19/1861, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 383 “*He is without exception*”: Ibid.
- 383 “*Was many years*”: John L. O’Sullivan to SC, 10/26/1861, CSL, Box 10.
- 384 “*though I should think*”: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 10/1/1861, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 1.
- 384 “*Those were very happy weeks*”: Barnard, 320.
- 385 “*Elizabeth’s description of Colt’s final days*”: Ibid., 321–24.
- 385 “*the disease went to his brain*”: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 1/9/1862–1/10/1862, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 2.
- 385 “*I believe he was conscious*”: Barnard, 322.
- 385 “*was so suddenly brought*”: *Buffalo (NY) Commercial*, 11/20/1862.
- 386 “*Beautifully and touchingly*”: Barnard, 322.

Epilogue: Legatees and Legacies

- 387 “*Revolver Colt*”: *Natchez (MS) Daily Courier*, 1/15/1862.
- 388 “*leave an irreparable gap*”: *Hartford Courant*, 1/11/1862.
- 388 “*There’s mourning in the princely halls*”: L. H. Sigourney, “In Memorium Colonel Samuel Colt, Died at Hartford, On Friday morning, January 10th, 1862,” Yale, Box 3, C-69.
- 389 “*My heart aches*”: William Jarvis to William Jarvis Jr. (nephew), 1/21/1862, CHS Jarvis Letters, Box 2.
- 389 “*annuls the power to kill*”: The line is from Emily Dickinson’s poem beginning “If any sink, assure that this, now standing.”
- 390 “*Still, by one estimate*”: Haven and Belden, 389.
- 390 “*some of the most psychopathic killers*”: McPherson, 785.
- 390 “*Their principal arm*”: Castel, 113.
- 391 “*No more terrifying object*”: Connelley, 319.
- 391 “*Anderson’s gang came*”: This account is drawn largely from Stiles, *Jesse James*, 119–27, and McPherson, 787.
- 392 “*Not a damned revolver*”: Quoted in Stiles, *Jesse James*, 125.
- 393 “*Kill and scalp all*”: Quoted in Andrist, 89.
- 393 “*such as never before*”: Quoted in Smiley, 426.
- 394 “*Our admiration*”: Quoted in Granston, 71. See also Hosley, 196–98.
- 395 “*The more, then, arms are perfected*”: Barnard, 185.
- 396 “*hunting and good dogs*”: *New York Times*, 11/24/1879.
- 396 “*one of the most brilliant*”: *Hartford Courant*, 11/25/1879.
- 396 “*Mr. Colt is not a man*”: *Hartford Courant*, 9/23/1870.
- 397 “*The following year, he became*”: *Hartford Courant*, 5/25/1871.
- 397 “*It frees you*”: *Hartford Courant*, 12/27/1987.
- 397 “*for his late unbrottherly conduct*”: United States Supreme Court, 28:523.
- 397 “*he sent a terse letter*”: James Colt to Elisha K. Root, 1/25/1862, CSL, Box 10.
- 397 “*one of the most successful*”: *Oskaloosa (KS) Sickle*, 12/14/1878.
- 398 “*He was richly dressed*”: Quoted in Edwards, 183.
- 398 “*This one featured*”: *Boston Post*, 12/4/1875.
- 398 “*a most bewildering jargon*”: *Galaxy* 16 (1873): 286.
- 398 “*It may seem a strong thing*”: *Athenuem*, May 25, 1872, 651.
- 398 “*an elderly Russian lady*”: *Chicago Tribune*, 7/24/1886.
- 398 “*Madam von Oppen presents*”: *Springfield (MA) Republican*, 9/11/1887.
- 399 “*Like a mother*”: *American Machinist* 41, no. 8–9 (1914): 64.

- 401 *That said, it is not fair to charge Colt:* For example, Michael A. Bellesiles in his essay “The Origins of Gun Culture in the United States, 1760–1865,” in Dizzard, Muth, and Andrews, 34. Also Haag, xii–xxv.
- 401 *Gatling justified:* Ellis, 25–33.
- 401 *In 1893, in South Africa:* Pauly, 123–24.
- 402 *In 2019, Colt Manufacturing Company: Time,* 9/20/2019.

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- New-York Historical Society (Archives, MSS Collection).
- NYU Special Collections Center, University Archives (Samuel Colt File; Rent rolls).
- Old Sturbridge Village Research Library.
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- University of Georgia, Hargrett Library (John Howard Payne letter books).
- University of Michigan, Clements Library (Lydia Maria Child Papers).
- University of Rhode Island, Special Collections and Archives (Colt Family Papers).
- Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art (Colt materials).
- Yale University, Beinecke Library (Jarvis-Robinson Family Papers).
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