To my brother Michael

Acknowledgments

I can never be grateful enough to you, as Arabella Allen said to Sam Weller, after his exertions in the Garden at Clifton. My colleagues and friends at Michigan have made many exertions on my behalf and for that I truly can never be grateful enough. I have been extraordinarily fortunate to have an incredibly supportive committee who have challenged me to produce rigorous scholarship and who have been generous with their time, expertise, and goodwill. With her expertise in sociolinguistics, Robin Queen helped me to shape my interdisciplinary methodology and to articulate my use of sociolinguistics to conduct literary criticism. Richard W. Bailey generously lent his inestimable knowledge of nineteenth-century English to this project. His critical eye kept me on my toes, while his generosity and enthusiasm fueled my excitement for this study. Anne Curzan has been an important mentor of mine since I was an undergraduate at the University of Washington; it was in one of her English linguistics courses that I first discovered my love of language study. Anne changed the way I think about language and has consistently challenged me to push my thinking further over the past ten years. Adela Pinch introduced me to the wonders of narrative theory and has informed much of the literary critical approach I take in this dissertation. I always emerge from meetings with her with a renewed sense of focus and enthusiasm. I owe my deepest debt of gratitude to my dissertation chair, Martha Vicinus. She introduced me to the joys of dialect literature, encouraged me to travel to archives in Lancashire, taught me how to write a dissertation,

and shared with me her expertise in all things Victorian. Her mentorship both shaped my scholarship and sustained me through the darkest days of dissertating.

The generous fellowship support of the University of Michigan Department of English and the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies has been invaluable to my work. The Rackham International Research Award was especially key to the rigorous archival work I conducted. Also instrumental to the success of my archival work were the librarians at the Manchester Central Library, the Harris Library in Preston, the Accrington Library, and the Haslingden Library, where librarian Linda Doody went above and beyond the call of duty (i.e., searching through piles and piles of books in storage) to find me the originals of *Ben Brierley's Journal*. Thanks also to the librarians at the Library of the Working-Class Movement in Salford and to Jenny Driver of the Rochdale Local Studies library, who did a tremendous amount of digging through old files on my behalf, and to Michael Boggin of the British Library, who assisted me with Dickens manuscripts. Special thanks to Tom Toon for his unwavering support over the years and his kindness in hosting my 2009 visit to Lancashire (and for driving me to many of these local archives!) and to Anthony Shakeshaft for making my stay so enjoyable.

Many thanks to Sweetland Dissertation Writing Institute, and to Sara Blair for nominating me for the Summer 2010 term. Special thanks to my instructor, Louis Ciccarelli, who put up with my patter about patterers, and to my workshop group: Monica Huerta, Isabelle De Rezende, Kathy Zazur, Jeffrey Lloyd, and Puspa Demai. Having the space and time to devote to the dissertation, not to mention the camaraderie of my fellow SDWI fellows, was invaluable to me in finishing the dissertation. Thanks also to the

members of the Nineteenth-Century Forum for creating a venue to share our work and to host scholars in our field. Thanks especially for allowing me to share my chapter on Henry Mayhew with the group and for taking the time to offer thoughtful suggestions for revision.

Special thanks to Bonnie Campbell, Lisa Curtis, and Lori Scott, whose company in Tisch Hall has been an inexhaustible source of support and delight. Thanks also to Jan Burgess and Senia Vasquez for your kindness and administrative guidance. And thank you to Paul, Mona, and Olivia and all of my wonderful co-workers at the Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership for making my part-time job more fun than I could have imagined.

My time here at the University of Michigan would never have been so wonderful if it were not for my dear friends. All my love and thanks to the ERC Allstars: Sarah Allison, Angie Berkley, Jenny Sorensen Emery-Peck, and Casie LeGette. They made the long days of dissertating at the back table not only bearable but also agreeable. Special thanks to Sarah for checking in, to Angie for duets, to Jenny for being my acting partner, and to Casie for putting up with me as a roommate and office squatter. Thanks also to the ERC baristas, especially Peter, Kristen, and Jamie, for letting us dissertate at the back table and for their words of encouragement. The lovely TV ladies, the aforementioned Allstars plus Staci Shultz and Elspeth Healey, made my non-academic time thoroughly delightful. Our evenings of cupcakes and *Project Runway* kept me sane. Special thanks to Shultzy for our working weekends in the fancy room and to Elspeth for our Doctor Who marathons. Thanks also to our pub trivia team, "Not Without My Boxty," which included the yet-to-be-mentioned Scott Berkley, David Emery-Peck, and Gavin Hollis.

Special thanks to Scott for being my scary movie buddy, to David for his eagerness to get the band back together, and to Gavin for frightening me with references to "Blink." Kir Royales at Zola with Terry Robinson also went a long way in keeping me sane, especially in the final months of dissertating. Our chats over bread and olives were the highlight of my week. Special thanks to Kate Hames, who has been one of my dearest friends for over ten years. I'll never forget our jaunts around Seattle, London, and Toronto, and I look forward to many many more.

Finally, I would like to thank my family. Thank you to my parents, who always told me I was smart. If they had lived to see me receive my PhD, they would have been over the moon with pride. It is no exaggeration to say that my success in academia would not have been possible without the support of my brother Michael, who has served as a role model for me since childhood. My sense of humor, strong work ethic, and unwillingness to settle for what life hands me I owe to Michael's influence. It was his mentorship and encouragement that instilled me with the confidence and drive to pursue an academic career. Michael and his wife, Ginger, have been exceedingly supportive and truly instrumental in my finishing the dissertation, especially during my "Florida sabbatical." And I mustn't forget to thank my NSB office mascot, Mango, and her pushy little sister, Maggie, who made writing my *Pickwick* chapter more delightful than I can say.

Table of Contents

Dedication.	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Introduction	1
Chapter	
1. "Some knowledge o' th' proper way o' speaking": The Local Prestige	of
Nonstandard Dialects in Mary Barton and Adam Bede	21
2. "Talk gradely, an' then we con understond yo": The Narrative Possib	ilities of
the Lancashire Dialect	66
3. "Some write well, but he writes Weller": Pickwick Papers and the Ne	:W
Cockney	118
4. Pattering Hintellects: Working-Class Voices in Henry Mayhew's Inve	stigative
Journalism	174
Conclusion	225
Conclusion	225
Bibliography	231