

Acknowledgments

This book would not have been possible without the contributions of many individuals. Obviously, the fifty-four people who were interviewed or who submitted answers to structured questionnaires provided a substantial body of information for the study. Not one person refused to be interviewed and all were willing to invest considerable time reflecting about their role in the annexation dispute. In a study of this nature, authors often rely on informants who were involved in important meetings or observed important events but who wish to remain anonymous. For these individuals, many of whom still occupy positions of authority and were willing to share what often was sensitive information, the writers are particularly grateful. More than once, the writers would hit a dead end, only to call one of their key sources for assistance in finding a new route.

John V. Moeser is appreciative of the leave of absence from his normal university responsibilities which was arranged by Professor Allen Ponoroff, Chairman of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Virginia Commonwealth University, and for the faculty and staff at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, where the author did a large portion of his writing. Dr. Patrick D. Miller, Jr., the Dean of the Faculty at Union Seminary, was most helpful in finding space for an interloper, though he and the others at the seminary made him feel a part of the community. Rutledge M. Dennis received valuable assistance from the faculty and staff of the VCU Department of Sociology. Collecting and reproducing materials were made much easier, thanks to the staff's cooperation and competence. Both authors are also grateful to Mary Morris Watt and the other staff members of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and *News Leader* library for their help while the writers pored over the volumes of news stories pertaining to boundary expansion and councilmanic elections.

Typing a book is not an easy task. Typing for one author is hard enough, but typing for two authors of a single work can try a typist's patience. However, the typists for this book were consistently even-tempered and maintained a good sense of humor. In addition to quality work, they gave encouragement and offered many helpful suggestions for improving the manuscript. The authors are indebted to Harriett Mercer, Sally Hicks, and Pandora Muse. For the excellent work of Annette Joseph at Schenkman Publishing Company, specifically her assistance in proofing the manuscript and for her guidance throughout the production of the book, the authors are grateful.

Of all the people who helped in producing this work, none are more important than the authors' families. Wives and children often went without their husbands and fathers while the book was taking shape. More than once, the question arose, "Is Daddy going to work again tonight?" Sharon Moeser and Sarah Dennis often had to be both mother and father. Had it not been for this home support and the forbearance of the children, the study would never have been completed. It is for this reason that this book is dedicated to Sharon, Jeremy, and David Moeser, and to Sarah, Tchaka, Imaro, Kimya, and Zuri Dennis.

JVM
RMD