

To the memory of my father, Thomas F. Williford

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This investigation would not have been possible without the financial support of a Fulbright scholarship in Colombia (2004-2005). The Colombian Fulbright Commission, led by Agustín Lombana and Consuelo Valdivieso, was a tremendous help in providing opportunities to meet with other scholars to share research. Financial support from Vanderbilt, including a special award as a Graduate Student Fellow, was also important in facilitating my studies from 2000 to 2005. The support and encouragement received from Vanderbilt's Office of Honors Scholarships (OHS), under director Paul Elledge, also aided in winning a Fulbright scholarship. Additionally, this dissertation was written on a laptop computer that was generously awarded by the OHS as a special gift for honors scholarship winners.

The Graduate School and the Department of History were additionally generous in providing travel funds so that I could attend several academic conferences in which I presented material that would become part of this dissertation. These include the Southern Historical Association Conference in 2002; graduate student conferences at Columbia University, New York, and at the University of California—Irvine in 2003; the International Conference on the One Hundred Years of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion at Tel Aviv University in 2004; and the American Historical Association—Conference on Latin American History Conference in 2005. These were all opportunities to exchange ideas on similar issues with scholars from around the U.S. and the world.

I would like to thank the Latin Americanists in the Department of History at Vanderbilt for their help, comments and words of encouragement during my studies and

during the process of formulating the thesis and writing the first drafts of dissertation chapters. My advisor, Dr. Marshall Eakin was always generous with his time and comments, as were Dr. Jane Landers, the late Dr. Simon Collier, and Dr. Frank Robinson. The Latin American specialist at Vanderbilt's Central Library, Paula Covington, has assembled an impressive array of resources for Latin American scholars, and has always been available to put researchers in the right direction.

I have very special gratitude for Vanderbilt Professor Emeritus Dr. J. León Helguera, whose collection of Colombian and Latin American imprints—the result of decades of scavenging in second-hand bookstores throughout Colombia—is probably the most impressive resource in North America for Colombian specialists. My recent research in Colombia has proved that the Helguera collection contains many items that are no longer available in Colombian archives. Additionally, the time that I spent with Dr. Helguera—especially while helping him catalogue his collection—was an invaluable aid in formulating my dissertation research plan. Dr. Helguera spent much time with the final drafts of this dissertation, making important suggestions and corrections.

The Vanderbilt Graduate School was also generous in providing funds for me to study in Cuba for two weeks in 2002 with a Vanderbilt Maymester course, taught by Dr. Carlos Jáuregui. My research on the Spanish Falange Abroad conducted in archives in Havana appears in the fourth chapter of this dissertation. My time in Cuba included discussions about the nature of discourse with Dr. Jáuregui while walking along the *malecón* late at night after one (or two) *mojitos*. These and later conversations helped me to formulate some of the basic ideas behind my thesis.

Dr. Eakin encouraged my study of Portuguese at Vanderbilt; at his suggestion, I applied for and won a Foreign Language Areas Studies (FLAS) Fellowship from the Department of Education to study in Brazil for six weeks in the summer of 2002. This experience broadened my knowledge and appreciation of Latin America in many ways. For instance, I witnessed Brazil's fifth World Cup victory in soccer while in Rio de Janeiro—an unforgettable experience that I will always share.

Several courses that I took outside of my own field in the Vanderbilt history department directly contributed to the material of two chapters of this dissertation. A course on the concept of professionalism with Dr. Matthew Ramsey in the fall of 2002 provided the basic structure of the third chapter. In dissertation seminars conducted by Dr. Donald Doyle in 2003, I became more aware of the concept of nationalism, which is important to the argument for chapter two.

I was very fortunate to be studying at Vanderbilt with fellow Latin Americanist graduate students Barry Robinson, Eugene Berger, and Emily Story, whose comments and encouragement have always been helpful. At the suggestion of Barry Robinson, I attended two graduate student history conferences at the University of North Carolina—Charlotte in 2001 and 2002, presenting material that would later become part of this dissertation.

Other graduate students at Vanderbilt were also very important in helping me to consider other aspects of my profession and of the ideas behind my dissertation. Special thanks among this excellent cohort go to Sue Marasco and Peter Kuryla for their friendship and their open exchange of ideas.

My studies for an M.A. in Colombian history at the Universidad Nacional in Bogotá from 1997 to 1999 laid the basis for my dissertation research. As in many MA programs in Latin America, I was asked to write a 200-page thesis. The research for this project took me to the National Archives in Washington and, especially, to the Library of the Mother Temple of the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third and Last Degree of the U.S. Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite freemasonry—an invaluable resource for the study of international freemasonry. The results of my research had unexpected consequences: my thesis was published by Editorial Planeta in January 2005 (Laureano Gómez y los masones, 1936-1942).

The continued advice of several professors at the Universidad Nacional, including Mauricio Archila, César Augusto Ayala, Carlos Miguel Ortiz, and Gonzalo Sánchez, aided in the research and writing of this dissertation. My cohort at the Universidad Nacional has also been helpful, particularly William Elvis Plata, who, as chief archivist of the Dominican archives in Bogotá, gave me unprecedented access to this newly available resource. Much of the material that I found there appears in chapters four and five.

My contacts among professors at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, where I taught Colombian history on three occasions from 1999 to 2001, have continued to enrich my research. Department head Diana Bonnet, former department head Juan Carlos Flores, and Ricardo Arias deserve special thanks in this regard.

During my Fulbright year in Bogotá I was associated with the Jesuit Universidad Javeriana. I discovered many little-used resources in their theological library, thanks to the help of librarians Hugo Ramírez and Gonzalo Vargas. Through Hugo Ramírez, I

made contact with Father Eduardo Rico, chief archivist at the private Jesuit archives in Bogotá. Resources available at this archive also appear in chapters four and five. The staffs of the Biblioteca Nacional, the Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango, and the Archivo Nacional in Bogotá also deserve my thanks and appreciation.

I became interested in Colombia when I first went there in 1991 as a school teacher. My colleagues and my students at Colegio Nueva Granada (1991-1993) and, especially, Colegio Santa Francisca Romana (1993-1996) contributed to my knowledge, and appreciation of Colombia and its people. Additionally, I made lifetime friends and had unforgettable experiences through my involvement with hiking clubs in Bogotá and with the English-Speaking Catholic Chaplaincy.

A very special thanks for the love and encouragement I have received from my spouse and best friend, Martha Lucía Rodríguez. My Fulbright year included getting to know her unusually large family, resulting in several discussions and interviews that have enriched my dissertation. Martha and our son Thomas Andrés have been patient with me during this entire process, for which I can only love them even more.

In dissertation seminar in early 2003, Dr. Doyle prodded us to place our dissertations in the larger historiographical context within our specific fields. I took him seriously when he jokingly asked, “How does your dissertation speak to the human condition?” I believe that political rhetoric in Colombia on the eve of *La Violencia* does indeed speak to the human condition: violent words contribute to violent actions everywhere. My experience as a teaching assistant in Dr. Michael Bess’ class on the Second World War, along with (all-to-brief) conversations with Dr. Helmut W. Smith,

also helped me to formulate this basic thesis. Nevertheless, this dissertation is undisputedly mine, along with any errors contained herein.

NOTE ON SPANISH USAGE

All translations are the author's, unless otherwise noted. For longer passages, the exact words in Spanish are found in the footnotes. I have generally employed using both last names, as is customary in Spanish: the first last name is that of the father and the second is that of the mother. However, following Colombian usage, I sometimes use only one last name for certain authors and public figures while consistently using both for others—this should not cause confusion among readers, Colombian or otherwise. Also, references to Colombia's two traditional political parties, the Liberal and Conservative, are capitalized; when referring in general to liberal and conservative ideas, lower case is employed.

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