Contents

Acknowledgments ix
Introduction 1
1. Collective Violence in the British Atlantic 7
2. Vigilantes, Criminal Justice, and Antebellum Cultural Conflict 12
3. Racial and Class Frontiers: Lynching and Social Identity in Antebellum America 32
4. Lynchers versus Due Process: The Forging of Rough Justice 54
5. The Civil War and Reconstruction and the Remaking of American Lynching 67
Epilogue 88

Appendix: Lists of Confirmed Lynchings 93
Lynchings of African Americans in the South, 1824–1862 93
Lynchings in the Northeast, Midwest, and West, 1840–1877 99
Notes 109
Index 141