

Nineteenth-Century Major Lives and Letters

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The series editor is Marilyn Gaull, PhD (Indiana University), FEA. She has taught at William and Mary, Temple University, New York University, and is Research Professor at the Editorial Institute at Boston University. She is the founder and editor of *The Wordsworth Circle* and the author of *English Romanticism: The Human Context*, and editions, essays, and reviews in journals. She lectures internationally on British Romanticism, folklore, and narrative theory, intellectual history, publishing procedures, and history of science.

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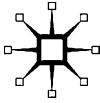
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OTHER BRITISH VOICES
WOMEN, POETRY, AND RELIGION,
1766–1840

Timothy Whelan

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*To my wife, YiXing, whose patience and support
has made this book possible*

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Hugh Steele-Smith, but her interest was primarily in Scott, which precluded her from pursuing the circle any further. That work was left for Reeves, who identified the central figures in the Steele circle for the first time. At the same time, her Wiltshire friend John Broome was devoting his energies to the first complete biography of Anne Steele, *A Bruised Reed: The Life and Times of Anne Steele* (2007). Without the work of Reeves and Broome, the publication in 2011 of the writings of all three generations of the Steele circle, beginning with the diarist Anne Cator Steele (1685–1760) and ending with the poet Maria Grace Saffery (1772–1858) and her neighbor at Bratton in her later years, Sophia Williams Whitaker (1790–1891) (in whose attic Reeves later found her treasure trove of manuscripts), would never have been possible.

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Nonconformist Women Writers, 1720–1840 (8 vols.); “‘When Kindred Souls Unite’: The Literary Friendship of Mary Steele and Mary Scott, 1766–1793,” *Journal of Women’s Studies* 43 (2014): 619–40 (by permission of Taylor & Francis Ltd); “Mary Scott, Sarah Froud, and the Steele Literary Circle: A Revealing Annotation to *The Female Advocate*,” *Huntington Library Quarterly*, 2014; and “West Country Nonconformist Women Writers, 1720–1840,” *Wordsworth Circle*, 43 (2012): 44–55. My thanks as well to the staff of the Interlibrary Loan Department, Henderson Library, Georgia Southern University, for their assistance in supplying numerous requests for books, documents, and microfilms related to my research. Preliminary research and the final composition of *Other British Voices* was assisted by a research fellowship provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2010 and a research sabbatical provided by Georgia Southern University in the spring of 2014.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- NWW* *Nonconformist Women Writers, 1720–1840*. Gen. ed. Timothy Whelan. 8 Vols. London: Pickering & Chatto, 2011. vols. 1–2: Griffin, Julia B., ed.; vols. 3–8: Whelan, Timothy, ed.
- STE* Steele Collection, Angus Library, Regent’s Park College, Oxford
- ROLLR* Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland