Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS vii

INTRODUCTION xi

ONE The Vision 1

TWO Lessons 26

THREE The Voyage of the Stirling 61

FOUR Midshipman James Cooper 101

FIVE Love and War 140

SIX Fenimore Farm 180

SEVEN Gains and Losses 216

EIGHT A Better Book 240

NINE An American Tale 270

TEN Legal Troubles 302

ELEVEN Settlement 335

TWELVE Taking Manhattan 367

THIRTEEN Old Tales and New 400

FOURTEEN Legends 428

FIFTEEN Hawk-eye 454

SIXTEEN Literary Business 491

NOTES 523

INDEX 681

Illustrations follow page 314