Contents

Acknowledgments vii
Introduction 1

1 • Beginnings: The Early Revival 21
2 • Blues Fell This Morning: The Blues and Black Life 56
3 • “You asked me about it, so I’m tellin’ you”: Representation through Oral History and Photography 91
4 • Tracing the Tradition: History and “Invention” 136
5 • The Blues Narrative: A Story of Triumph over Tragedy 161

Afterword 205
Notes 213
Bibliography 235
Index 245

Photo sections begin on pages 52, 128, and 191