

OLIVER TWIST & ME

*The True Story of my Family and
Charles Dickens's Best-Loved Novel*

NICHOLAS BLINCOE

CONTENTS

Introduction: 1974	I
1. The Two Workhouses: 1790s/1830s	17
2. Two Families: Barrow and Dickens, 1790-1801	37
3. Factory Boy: 1799-1803	53
4. Portsmouth: 1805-14	73
5. The High Peak: 1804-14	94
6. Dickens Loses Three Friends: 1816-22	111
7. Rag Trade: Manchester, 1819-22	138
8. Dickens Alone: 1824	154
9. Fleet Street: 1824-28	179
10. Publishing Robert's Story: 1828-33	196
11. Dickens's Lift-off: 1834-44	210
12. Whited Sepulchres: 1857-68	238
13. Up the Orphans! 1870	269
Sources	281
Acknowledgements	315
Index	317