

Acknowledgements

I have benefitted from the assistance and support of many while writing this book. I would like to express my gratitude to the staffs of the following for their assistance with research: the National Archives of Ireland, Dublin; the National Library of Ireland, Dublin; the Dublin Diocesan Archives, Drumcondra; the John J. Burns Library, Boston College; the Galway Diocesan Archives; the Cloyne Diocesan Archives; the Kerry Diocesan Archives; the Limerick Diocesan Archives; and the National Folklore Collection, University College Dublin. The revisions for this manuscript were completed while I was on a Fulbright fellowship in Dublin; my thanks to the Fulbright Commission as well as Gerardine Meaney and the Humanities Institute at University College Dublin for hosting me. For additional financial support I thank the History Department and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the College of Charleston. I also am grateful to the editors of *Éire-Ireland*, *Lilith: A Feminist History Journal*, *Études Irlandaises*, the *Journal of Family History*, and *Four Courts Press* for permission to reproduce parts of previously published articles and chapters. The editorial team at Manchester University Press, especially Emma Brennan and Alun Richards, were enormously helpful and patient throughout this process.

I thank my amazing students at the College of Charleston and also wish to express my gratitude to my colleagues in the History Department, Women's and Gender Studies, Irish Studies, and the Women's Health Research Team. I am especially indebted to Phyllis Justice for reading a draft of the entire manuscript and to the following colleagues for providing helpful insight along the way: Sandra Slater, Noelle Zeiner-Carmichael, Tim Carmichael, Bill Olejniczak, Chris Boucher,

and E. Moore Quinn. The late Ruth-Ann M. Harris generously offered not only her mentorship but also her amazing Mill House, where I wrote several chapters one memorable summer.

Family and friends have sustained me in innumerable ways throughout the efforts that this book required. Thank you to Amy, Deb, Kelly, Derek, Jim, and Johnny; Ryan, Justine, Mackenzie, Madeline, Richie, Keegan, Ava, Lila, Evan, Natalie, Fiona, Finn, Niamh, and Owen; and Cassie, Noelle, Sandy, Moore, Rosalva, Izzy, and Kairo. To my father and my late mother, who always gave me the freedom to have a 'life of the mind', I am eternally grateful. And to Paris, the best decision I've ever made: how can I express my thankfulness for your support every step of the way? Words are insufficient. *Te adoro.*