Acknowledgements

The seeds for this book were planted in 2000, when John Young asked me to present a paper at his conference ‘Scotland and Ulster: Connections and Interactions, c.1585–1750’, held at the University of Strathclyde as part of the Irish-Scottish Academic Initiative. In writing my paper I quickly became aware of just how under-developed the study of Irish-Scottish relations for the early seventeenth century remained, despite the brilliant pioneering forays of a previous generation, particularly Michael Perceval-Maxwell and David Stevenson, and also Robert Hunter and Raymond Gillespie. Typical of Irish historiography not so very long ago, major contributions such as theirs had not stirred others to follow their lead very far, to seriously develop the field. Even with the advent of the much-vaunted ‘New British History’ questions abounded, unasked and unanswered. Eventually, I set about trying to rectify this situation by hosting a conference, ‘The Scots and Stuart Ireland’, held at University College Cork in 2007. This volume is partly derived from that conference, and I would like to thank all the participants for making it such a worthwhile (and enjoyable) event. I must also, of course, thank John Young for first encouraging me to enter the fray.

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