## Acknowledgments

I am grateful for all the ways I have been supported through the long process of seeing this book to publication. It seems fitting to begin these acknowledgments with Varpu Lindström, since this project began with her. Varpu was an inspiring scholar, mentor, and friend, who taught me so much about Finns and social history, but also about generosity, cooperation, and kindness. Though Varpu is not here to see this book, or the York University History doctoral dissertation on which it is based, I have been very fortunate to have had the guidance and friendship of Roberto Perin throughout it all. I am also greatly indebted to Jane Couchman, Marcel Martel, Sheila Embleton, Katherine Bischoping, and Marlene Epp for helping me to think through the project in new ways. I am immensely thankful for the feedback and friendship of many brilliant colleagues at the Migration Institute of Finland, the John Morton Center for North American Studies, the University of Turku, Lakehead University's Department of History and Northern Studies Resource Center, York University Department of History, the Comparative Immigrant Book Cultures Research Group, the History of Finnish Migrations Network, the Finnish Oral History Network, and the Place & Colonialism Reading Group, among other scholarly communitites I have the privilege to be part of. I want to give special thanks to Katie Bausch, Andrew Watson, Malla Lehtonen, Reetta Humalajoki, Anne Heimo, Marta-Laura Cenedese, Pekka Kolehmainen, Niko Heikkilä, Saku Pinta, Ulla Savolainen, and Hanna Snellman for their unwavering camaraderie.

My engagement with this history began with the opportunity to be part of Varpu Lindström's Missing in Karelia research project from 2006 to 2010. Through the project, I learned so much from the expertise of colleagues including Markku Kangaspuro, Alexey Golubev, Peter Kivisto, Irina Takala, Evgeny Efremkin, and Börje Vähämäki. I am grateful to

Raija Warkentin, who generously shared her research materials with me. I have also had help and support from some of the descendants of the Finnish North American life writers. Thank you, Nancy Mattson, Kathy Toivonen, Leonore Heino, Arthur Koski, and the late Eini Tuomi, for sharing your families with me. Thanks also to Laurie Hertzel, who years ago kindly answered my questions about her time working with Mayme Sevander.

I gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship program, the Academy of Finland, Kone Foundation, and the Migration Institute of Finland, which have enabled this work at different stages. Thank you to Lennart Husband, Robin Studniberg, Barbara Porter, and the University of Toronto Press team for making this book a reality. Thank you also to copy editor James Leahy and indexer Ellen Hawman.

In the process of learning about the Finns in Karelia, I discovered that my family has played a role in this history, too. My maternal grandfather's uncle was among these Finnish North American migrants, my maternal great-grandfather brought Finnish "border hoppers" to the Soviet border, and the Närvänen family has deep Finnish-Karelian roots. My family has, of course, influenced this work in many other more immediate, intimate, and nourishing ways. My warm thanks to my mother and father, Tiina and Jari Närvänen, my in-laws, Lita Boudreau and Lyle and Vicki Nicol, my amazing assorted siblings, Ninja, Jaan, Milko, Jonna, Erna, Bret, Kate, Michael, and Justin, and my nephews and nieces. I am blessed with a wonderful community of family and friends in Finland and Canada (and elsewhere), and you have each made a mark on this work. Finally, my greatest love, thanks, and appreciation go to my partner Luke Nicol and our "raised in the revolutionary spirit" children, Azelia and Maeve.

I dedicate this book to the Finnish North Americans who went to Karelia. May the memory of their commitment to building a better world inspire us to work now for an equitable, sustainable, and brighter future for all.

