Acknowledgments

It seems strange to begin a list of acknowledgments with people who cannot be named, but it is my “informants” who made this book possible. To everyone who let me into their homes and lives, patiently answered questions, and helped me find other people to pester: you all have my deepest gratitude, not only for the information but for the chance to spend time as one should in Newfoundland, that is, in the kitchen telling stories.

I was lucky to have as my companion on many of these occasions Martin Lovelace, who has been unflagging in support of this project—and twenty-plus years is a long time not to flag. During those early field trips he was busy tending to small John Rieti-Lovelace; now John is a journalist and editor whose energy was an inspiration to take the manuscript off the shelf. During its long incubation, portions of it benefited greatly from being read by Marianne Stopp and Philip Hiscock. I have had helpful discussions with almost all my friends but must particularly mention Janet McNaughton, Diane Tye, and Pauline Greenhill. I could always depend on encouragement from the crowd in California: weird sisters Janet Rieti Johnson and Nancy Rieti, and old friends Peter Maund, Monique Young (fellow students at Berkeley), and William Gross.

At Memorial University, I am indebted to the contributors to the Folklore and Language Archive, on whose work I have so heavily drawn. In the Folklore department office, Sharon Cochrane and Cindy Turpin are ever resourceful, whether it’s a printer problem or a sudden need for tea; the archivist, Patricia Fulton, and staff were unfailingly helpful. Generous postdoctoral support from the Institute for Social and Economic Research and from the Social Sciences and
Humanities Research Council of Canada made the field research possible. Subventions from the Memorial University Publications Subvention Program and the Aid to Scholarly Publications Programme made this publication possible.

At McGill-Queen’s University Press, Philip Cercone’s optimism and advice were much appreciated at a critical stage, and Joan McGilvray has been patient with plaintive e-mails over minute matters. Claire K. Gigantes’s editing helped enormously with form and detail.

It is a pleasure to list a fraction of my debts here, and to think of the many people who have helped me over two decades, even if it was not in direct connection with the book. One cannot work on the subject too long without an appreciation of the bonds of affection and exchange.