

Contents

Acknowledgments 9

Abstract 13

1 The 19th-Century American West: A Social Laboratory for Multifarious Transformations and Reforms 15

2 Historical Reflections of American Autobiographical Narrative Practice(s) 37

2.1 Women’s Life Writings in the “Forgotten Century” 42

2.2 “Damned mob of scribbling women” 43

2.3 Narrative Spaces of Life Writing 51

2.3.1 Mapping the Invisible Landscape: Autobiographical Epistemologies 53

2.3.2 The West and “I”: A Complex Stage 56

2.4 Native American Autobiography: A “Mangled” Genre 59

2.4.1 Written on the Wind: Literary Tradition (Oral) and Authorship (Identity) 63

2.4.2 Life Writings in “The Red Woman’s America” 65

3 The Cultural West as a Transformational Place of Many Spaces 69

3.1 Cultural Concepts of Space and Place 71

3.2 “Manifest Destiny Aesthetics” – Cultural (Mis)representations of the West 75

3.3 Bringing “Progress” to the West 78

3.4 Go West, Young Woman! 81

3.4.1 The Trails – On the Tracks of the Elephant 84

3.4.2 Granny Remedies 88

3.5 Cultural Rhetoric of Nineteenth-Century Women’s “Proper Place” 90

3.5.1	Apple Pie, Sex, and The Cult of True Womanhood	95
3.5.2	"Stepping Out of Place"—Expanding the Domestic Sphere	99
3.6	The Transformation of Domestic Boundaries and Nineteenth-Century Medicine	105
3.6.1	Lay healers—Midwives, Nurses, and Thomsonians	107
3.6.2	The Professionalization of Medicine	113
4	Women's Transformative Counter-Narratives to the Ontological History of the 19th Century American West	121
4.1	Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte: "The First Woman Physician Among Her People"	125
4.1.1	"From the Tepee to Civilization"	129
4.1.2	Life in the "Good Road", Spirituality, and Iron Eye's Family	135
4.1.3	"If you knew the conditions..."	160
4.1.4	Legacy of the New "Medicine Woman," Cultural Broker, and Progressive Reformer	169
4.2	Patty Bartlett Sessions: The Role of Mormon Women and Medicine in Settling Salt Lake, Utah	177
4.2.1	"Baptized in a Sessions Bathtub"	178
4.2.2	"Doctor" Patty: Clever Businesswoman and Mother of Mormon Midwifery	181
4.2.3	"A Peculiar People" or "Quintessential American Religion"?	186
4.2.4	Exodus: In Search of the Kingdom of Zion	189
4.2.5	Benevolent Heroines: Establishment of the Female Relief Society	197
4.2.6	"Remember Me" (1795 -1892)	203
4.3	Life of Dr. Bethenia Owens-Adair: "Mother of [Oregon's] Sterilization Bill"	204
4.3.1	Early Life of an Oregon Pioneer "Doctress"	206
4.3.2	The "Organized" New Woman and Maternalist Health Reformers	218
4.3.3	Protestant Social Reformers: WCTU Crusaders on a Mission	227
4.3.4	"End of the Last Chapter"	253
5	Blazing their Paths into the Future	257
	Works Cited	267

Í minningu ástkærrar móður minnar, Hildar Vilhjálmsdóttur (1941-1985)

ömmu, Bryndísar Sigurðardóttur (1916-1984), og formæðra okkar

