## CONTENTS

Ι.

2.

3.

4.

List of Illustrations xi
Preface xiii
Acknowledgments xxiii
A Homesteading Time Line xxix
Introduction 1
Conversion 11
Getting (Not Too) Close to Nature 38
Homemade Ritual 63
Interlude: Interpreting Ambivalence:

The Reenchantment of the Farm: John

Burroughs Goes Back to the Land

Homesteading as Spiritual and

Cultural Work

- Scott Nearing and the Social Gospel of Agriculture 139
- 6. Ambivalent Legacies I: The Dynamics of Engagement and Retreat 171
- Ambivalent Legacies II: Gender, Class, Nature, and Religion 201

Appendix: Of Hoes and Huckleberries:

A Note on Method 237

Notes 243

Selected Bibliography 309

Index 327

## **ILLUSTRATIONS**

## Frontispiece: Sign at the entrance to Helen and Scott Nearing's Forest Farm in Maine

- 1. Helen and Scott Nearing's last stone house and garden in Maine xv
- 2. Bill Coperthwaite's main yurt 14
- A stone wall in Helen's garden 44
- 4. Sal's homestead and sauna 46
- 5. Drawing from Payne Hollow, by Harlan Hubbard 71
- 6. John Burroughs in a field in front of Slabsides 122
- 7. John Burroughs at his desk at Slabsides 132
- Scott Nearing, Frank Watson, and Nellie Seeds on the porch of Forest Lodge, at Arden 147
- 9. Scott Nearing at the Vermont homestead in the 1940s 165
- 10. Helen Nearing at the Vermont homestead in the 1940s 166
- 11. Helen sugaring in Vermont in 1937 169
- Helen sorting tools 211
- 13. An article in The Silent Hostess by Myrtle Mae Borsodi 212
- 14. Signs at Helen Nearing's memorial service in October 1995 236