Women’s Rights, Racial Integration, and Education from 1850–1920
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The Case of Sarah Raymond, the First Female Superintendent

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For most of history, anonymous was a woman.
—Virginia Woolf

I dedicate this to those who, like Sarah Raymond Fitzwilliam, were inspired by others to challenge themselves and society. She believed in herself, the goodness of others, and the potential for a better community. May we all find that person who inspires us to make our world a better place and live our lives with compassion for all. History needs to be his story, her story, and our story. Here is to giving voice to an otherwise anonymous woman in history.

Thanks to the support, interest, and hard work of others, Sarah Raymond’s voice and legacy is now being heard again. Her story is inspiring and I hope it will continue to empower others who read it. We can make a difference in our community and challenge injustice. I was lucky to find a woman whose story needed to be told and I am even luckier to have others who empowered me with my research on Sarah Raymond to challenge myself, our program on educational leadership, the early history of Illinois State University, and the community and schools of Bloomington/Normal, Illinois.

I appreciate them for listening to my concerns, engaging my questions, fostering my voice, challenging my paradigms, and celebrating my passion and spirit. They are an amazing group of female scholars and I am proud to call them my mentors. Thank you Dr. Amee Adkins, Dr. Sandra Harmon, Dr. Linda Lyman, and Dr. Trisha Klass.
Acknowledgments

I thank my husband, my children, my parents, my extended family, my friends, and my history department colleagues for believing in me, for challenging me, for encouraging me, for helping me, for loving me, and for modeling for me a life of service and dedication to social justice. Thank you for empowering me to challenge myself and those around me.

To my circle of friends who keep me grounded, laughing, and in touch with reality—Amy, Vicki, Liz, Heather, Susan, Molly, Tammy, Nancy, and Emily, you are the sisters I never had. To my circle of friends at work—you make life, teaching, and learning a pleasure. Thank you for supporting me, challenging me, and encouraging me to image doing things differently.

A special thanks to my mom, Elaine, for the proofreading, editing, indexing, and countless hours of support over the years. I know I am where I am today because I had a mom who believed in me and was there for me. I only hope my girls grow up knowing the same thing and that I can be there to support their dreams no matter how big.

To my dad, Peter, who was the first to suggest I get a PhD in History/Social Foundations. I continue to be inspired by his spirit of historical inquiry, accuracy, and justice. He dedicated his life to interpreting history and bringing it alive for others. He made the ordinary objects of the past become extraordinary windows into our history.

I am very appreciative of the various archives and archivists who welcomed me and facilitated my research. The work of historians cannot be completed without the support of others who know their sources and preserve the memories of the past. At the McLean County Museum of History, I thank Greg Koos and Bill Kemp. At the Illinois State University Archives, I thank Dr. Jo Rayfield and I also thank the librarian staff at the Illinois State University, Vanette Schwartz and Sharon Naylor and Illinois Wesleyan University. Thank you to the support at the Kendall County Historical Society and the Chicago History Museum/Archives. A special thank you and dedication to Bloomington School District 87 who had the
Acknowledgments

vision to keep historic records/documents and are eager and honored to celebrate the rich past of their school district. And many thanks to the friends and colleagues like Dr. John Freed who thoughtfully reviewed the manuscript and shared their perspectives.

I appreciate my graduate student Sara Piotrowski who read books beyond her interests, traveled to research sites beyond her imagination, and offered support and friendship beyond her knowing. The editorial staff at Palgrave Macmillan has been fabulous and made the challenging tasks more manageable; so thank you to Samantha Hasey, Julia Cohen, Allison McElgunn, Maran, and Vidhya.

This is dedicated to those who influence others without even knowing it.

And last there are few works that truly capture the love and appreciation I have for you my husband Kirk and my daughters Emma and Celeste. You spent many weekends without me as I finished my writing; I truly appreciate all that you did to help this dream become a reality. I can now answer the nightly question of “Are you done with your book yet?” (That rang like the familiar call of Are We There Yet?). Yes, I am finally done with my book.

M.C.N.