Contents

Acknowledgments vi
Introduction 1
Jill Terry Rudy

The Importance of Folklore

The Deeper Necessity: Folklore and the Humanities 9
Building Bridges: Folklore in the Academy 23
Arts and Cultural Policy 32
“Something There Is That Doesn’t Love a Wall” 44
The Folk Speak: Everyday Life in Pioneer Oral Narratives 62
Documenting Folklore 81

Folklore and National Identity

Herder, Folklore, and Romantic Nationalism 107
Sibelius, the Kalevala, and Karelianism 124
Folklore, Nationalism, and the Challenge of the Future 142
Finns in a New World: A Folkloristic Perspective 150

Folklore, Religion, and Who We Are

The Concept of the West and Other Hindrances to the Study of Mormon Folklore 169
The Study of Mormon Folklore: An Uncertain Mirror for Truth 182
On Being Human: The Folklore of Mormon Missionaries 201
The Seriousness of Mormon Humor 221
Freeways, Parking Lots, and Ice Cream Stands: Three Nephites in Contemporary Mormon Culture 236
“Teach Me All That I Must Do”: The Practice of Mormon Religion 253
Personal Narratives: The Family Novel 261

A Daughter’s Biography of William A. Wilson 283
Denise Wilson Jamsa

William A. Wilson’s Published Works 293
Works Cited 299
Contributors of Introductions to Essays 311
Index 315