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CULTURAL SECRETS AS NARRATIVE FORM
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Storytelling in Nineteenth-Century America

Margaret Reid

The Ohio State University Press
Columbus
for my parents,
James D. Reid
and
Anne Donohue Reid

and in memory of their parents,
Agnes Carmody Donohue
Gerald Donohue
Katherine O'Leary Reid
Richard Reid
For here were God knew how many citizens, deliberately choosing not to communicate. . . . It was not an act of treason, nor possibly even of defiance. But it was a calculated withdrawal, from the life of the Republic, from its machinery. . . . [T]his withdrawal was their own, unpublicized, private. Since they could not have withdrawn into a vacuum (could they?) there had to exist the separate, silent, unsuspected world.

—Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*