## Contents

## Introduction 3

- 1 / Native American Self-Narration and Autobiography Theory 11
   Native American Concepts of Self, Life, and Language 13
   The Web of Self-Narration: Native American and Euro-American Autobiographical Traditions 20
- 2 / Pre-Contact Oral and Pictographic Autobiographical
   Narratives: Coup Tales, Vision Stories,
   and Naming Practices 25
   Coup Tales 26
   Nineteenth-Century Plains Indian Names and Autobiography 37
- 3 / Pictographs as Autobiography: Plains Indian Sketchbooks,
   Diaries, and Text Construction 57
   Sketchbooks of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries 58
   A Cheyenne Diarist and Indigenous Text Production 77
- 4 / Literary Boundary Cultures: The Life Histories of Plenty-Coups, Pretty-Shield, Sam Blowsnake, and Mountain Wolf Woman 88
  Two Crow Life Histories 91
  Two Winnebago Life Histories 104
  Performance, Ceremony, and Self-Narration 113

5 / Oral and Written Collaborative Autobiography: Nicholas Black Elk and Charles Alexander Eastman 117

Nicholas Black Elk 118
Charles Alexander Eastman 139

6 / Contemporary Innovations of Oral Traditions: N. Scott

6 / Contemporary Innovations of Oral Traditions: N. Scott Momaday and Leslie Marmon Silko 153 N. Scott Momaday 155 Leslie Marmon Silko 186

Notes 201 Works Cited 225 Index 237

Conclusion 196