

Praise for *Crossing Swords*

"*Crossing Swords* is a fascinating analysis of a very modern-day theme: marriage vs. "free love" and the role of women in society. Ms. Safronoff has unearthed a gem of a story that still resonates today!"

SUZANNE VENKER, author of *The Two-Income Trap: Why Parents are Choosing to Stay Home*

"This would be a great seminar book for a women's studies program or comparative religion course. It would make for some good discussions on a lot of interesting topics!"

SHANNON MCDERMOTT WELLS
Chairman, Richardson Interfaith Alliance

"Cindy Peyser Safronoff has given us an excellent window into a 19th century culture war that is expertly explored in her work *Crossing Swords*. Many might think the challenges to marriage began in the 1960s. How startling, and helpful, to see their origins a century earlier. Safronoff has dived deep and broad into both sides of the issues she engages, and she has done so with an objectivity that frees the reader from having to sort the author's predisposition at every turn. As a decades-long marriage educator, this work was illuminating to me of issues with which we are still wrestling in the 21st century."

RICHARD DAVENPORT
Higher Ground For Life

"*Crossing Swords* is a worthwhile book for all who are wondering about the place of marriage today. You have uncovered the historical roots of free love and contrasted it with one who taught the highest moral standard of that age. Bravo!"

GEORGE DENNINGER, author of
Revelation: The Prophecy and Fulfillment of Man

"The basic battle lines are clear between "puritan" (Eddy) and "free love" (Woodhull) views of marriage. ...I think there's a possible movie in here."

LLOYD SLOAN, of The Sloan Ranger Show
(WGNU, 2001-2007)

"As the author of an upcoming book on the Quimby-Eddy debate, I have spent over 35 years researching all aspects of the life of Mary Baker Eddy, and thus when I found this book I was delighted and amazed by its thorough treatment of the brief connection between Mary Baker Eddy and Victoria Woodhull. The book is well written and researched. It is a fascinating look at the issue of "free love" and marriage in the 19th century, which helps provide a context for some of the issues we see today in the 21st century."

KEITH MCNEIL

"*Crossing Swords* is a terrific book—a fine blend of excellent writing and superior research. ... masterful account."

DR. LORRAINE MCCONAGHY, Public Historian, Seattle

"It will stand alone as an original and courageous piece of writing. You have documented an important piece of American history and I wish you ALL THE BEST in bringing it to the world!"

LINDA CONRADI, Educator

"A remarkably even-handed exploration of the little-known debates — and occasional ironic convergences — between two charismatic 19th century women whose support for women's rights was attached to very different views about marriage and sexuality."

STEPHANIE COONTZ, author of
Marriage, a History: How Love Conquered Marriage

"*Crossing Swords* tells the intertwined tales of Victoria Woodhull and Mary Baker Eddy — two fearless American iconoclasts whose work on sex, love, and women's rights changed the course of American culture. Cindy Peyser Safronoff does a great job of bringing these fascinating women back to life in all of their brilliance and eccentricity for a new generation of readers."

DEBBY APPLIGATE, Pulitzer Prize winner for
The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher

"*Crossing Swords* gives the reader insight into the lives of two important 19th century American women who were ahead of their time. ... Those who enjoy reading books on 19th century American history, modern religious movements, or women's studies will really enjoy reading this book."

LISA COVINGTON
Manhattan Book Review

"This book makes an invaluable contribution to the discussion of marriage and speaks directly to our time. Debate about marriage is as old as the institution itself. And our own thoughtful individual and collective consideration of it have profound ramifications for our society as a whole. The book *illuminates* the debate."

MARY DAVIS

"An intriguing read that goes from a fascinating history of marriage in the church, to a questioning of marriage itself, to a reminder to me of the true value of marriage to the individuals involved as well as to society."

JAN TRUE

"Astonishingly brilliant book . . . on an era which has been overlooked all these years. . . . a page-turner! A treasure of historical upheaval!"

MARJORIE HAMLIN

"It is very interesting to see the history of many ideas about marriage which seem to be floating around in our culture today, and to find out where these ideas originated. . . . It has ideas that definitely need to be brought to light in our times!"

JUNIPER REMMERDE KISTNER