



# The Long Journeys Home

## The Repatriations of Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia and Albert Afraid of Hawk

Nick Bellantoni

*The moving stories of two Indigenous men and their repatriations*

Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia (ca. 1792—1818) and Itankusun Wanbli (ca. 1879—1900) lived almost a century apart and came from different Indigenous Nations – Hawaiian and Lakota. Yet the circumstances of Western imperialism that led them to leave their homelands and come to Connecticut where they died and were buried have striking similarities. In 1992 and 2008, descendant women had visitations that their ancestors wished to “come home” and started the repatriation process. CT state archaeologist Nick Bellantoni oversaw the archaeological disinterment and forensic identifications in returning these men to their respective Native families. *The Long Journeys Home* chronicles these significant stories as examples of the wide-reaching impact of colonialism and the resurgence of Hawaiian and Lakota cultures.

**Nicholas F. Bellantoni** is an associate adjunct professor in the anthropology department at the University of Connecticut and Emeritus Connecticut State Archaeologist at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.

*“In this most engaging and extensively researched book, archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni recovers from obscurity the remarkable life journeys, dreams, and deaths of two Native men and the two worlds they lived in.”*

—Paul Grant-Costa, Executive Editor, Yale Indian Papers Project

*“Based on meticulous forensic research, Bellantoni’s tale of two indigenous youth from different cultures and time periods, and their struggles to survive cultural upheavals, clearly reveals the chaotic effects of American colonialism on Native peoples. The book is a major contribution to the field of Postcolonial Studies.”*

—Lucianne Lavin, author of *Connecticut’s Indigenous Peoples*

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