



## History of ancient Woodbury, Connecticut : from the first Indian dead in 1659 to 1872, Volume 1

William Cothren

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HISTORY OF ANCIENT WOODBURY.

#### INTRODUCTION.

Lkss than two hundred years ago, these pleasant hills and sunny valleys, now teeming with life, intelligence and happiness, were one vast solitude, unvisited by the cheering rays of civilization. Here roamed the savage wild beasts, and untutored men more savage still than they. From Wyantenuck to Mattatuck, and from Pootatuck to Bantam, were heard the dismal howl of the wolf, and the war-cry of the red men of the forest. Amid these secluded wilds sported the timid deer, and coy doves built their lonely nests. Among these hills the red hunter pursued his game, and sauntered by our murmuring streams, drawing thence his daily food. Here desperate fights and deadly ambuscades were planned. Here did the prisoner of war suffer the extreme tortures of his enemies. Here the romantic lover " wooed his dusky mate" in primitive simplicity. Here too the powwow held his dread incantations, and if tradition is to be believed, oiFered human sacrifices to appease the anger of Hobbamocko, the spirit of evil, the author of all human plagues and calamities. Here too in the golden days of the Indian Summer, the poor savage mused of the Great Spirit, the benevolent Kiehtan, giver of his corn, beans and tobacco, who lived far away to the south-west, in whose blest dominions he hoped, at death, to find his happy hunting-grounds.

Everything now is changed. The desert waste that met the first gaze of our pioneer forefathers, has been made to bud and blossom as the rose. Where once were but scattered huts of the former race, are now enterprising and busy villages. The ceaseless hum of machinery, giving employment, competence and happiness to hundreds of families, is now heard in our valleys, which, in those early days, but echoed the growl of the bear, or the cry of the panther. Instead

of the wretched orgies of the powwow, and the inhuman sacrifices of the midnight of barbarism, are churdies dedicated to the service of the living God, where prayer and praise are wont to be made.



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