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*American History Imprints is pleased to announce the publication of*

## ***1609: A Country That Was Never Lost*** *by Kevin W. Wright, historian and author*

Profit in silk and spices lured them into Arctic straits, but the chilling reality of the Little Ice Age blocked their passage. Therefore, Henry Hudson and his mutinous crew turned westward armed with vague charts and supposed sightings of the Indian Ocean across a narrow sandy isthmus. Upon their arrival, crowds of curious Manhattans greeted them in canoes made from tree trunks. Dressed in animal skins and mantles woven of turkey feathers, they offered corn, beans, oysters, tobacco, hemp, grapes and pumpkins in trade for cloth, metal tools and trinkets.

Mining contemporary sources, historian Kevin W. Wright has carefully reconstructed the native world that Henry Hudson encountered during his fateful voyage of 1609. In so doing, he dispels the fog of nineteenth and twentieth century myths to rediscover the North Americans of the Middle Atlantic Coast. Describing their original homelands and culture in great detail, he brings the panorama of culturally diverse native societies to life. These were truly the First Americans, inclined to live “almost all equally free.” Could their natural democracy lie at the heart of the American spirit?

The Hudson Quadricentennial marks the birth of the Dutch colony of New Netherland upon the Hudson and Delaware Rivers and the dawn of history for Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut. But as early as 1656, Dutch commentator Adriaen van der Donck wondered how Christopher Columbus or Amerigo Vespucci could have discovered “a country that was never lost?” Through these pages readers step back in time for a visit with ancient Algonquian and Iroquoian communities of Native Americans, including the original Manhattans, the Minisinks of Bachom’s Country, the Lenape of the Schuylkill estuary, the Mahicans, Susquehannocks, Mohawks and others whose names have been lost in the mists of time.

*1609: A Country That Was Never Lost* includes a comprehensive bibliography, extensive endnotes, and a complete index. It is destined to become a classic resource for anyone who enjoys Native American culture and history, especially in the New Jersey and New York areas.

**Format:** 6" x 9" paperback on acid-free paper

**Pages:** 284, including table of contents, introduction, bibliography, endnotes, index

**Illustrations:** copies of original maps, and old illustrations of Native American interest

**ISBN 13:** 978-0-9842256-1-3

**LCCN:** 2009936060

**PRICE:** \$18.95 USD

### About the Author

Born in Newton, New Jersey to John Ivan and Teresa (Mullen) Wright, Kevin Wright was attracted, even as a child, to the history and legends of Sussex County. After graduating from Rutgers College, he engaged in historical interpretation at the restored village of Waterloo in 1977, eventually becoming tour director in 1979. As curator of the Steuben House, a Revolutionary War landmark in River Edge, he built up a large interest and attendance, working with the Bergen County Historical Society. In 1982, he and Alex Everitt successfully led the fight to preserve the 1848 Sussex Courthouse and Newton's oldest streetscape. Kevin prepared the National Register nomination for the Newton Town Plot Historic District. In 1985, his research brought worldwide media attention to New Jersey's claim of sovereignty over Ellis and Liberty Islands. He became the first Resource Interpretive Specialist for the northern region of New Jersey in 2000 and was central to the visioning process for Historic New Bridge Landing, Lusscroft Farm, and the State History Fair.

Kevin Wright is a past President of the Sussex County Historical Society and of the Bergen County Historical Society. He has been a member of the Newton Historic Preservation Advisory Commission since 1987. Married to art director and graphic designer Deborah Powell, they have three children.

**To request a review copy or to schedule interviews, book signings or appearances with the author, please email [dkane@Americanhistoryimprints.com](mailto:dkane@Americanhistoryimprints.com)**

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