

## *The Thanksgiving Story—Real or Make Believe?*

According to Loewen's research, Squanto did speak English and helped the Pilgrims survive; but most textbooks omit that, as a boy, he was stolen from his village and taken to England, where he lived for nine years before an English slave trader captured him, selling the young man into slavery in Spain. Squanto eventually escaped from slavery, made his way back to England and finally hitched a ride on a ship bound for Massachusetts. But when he reached his home village of Patuxet, his entire village had been wiped out by diseases brought to the New World by Europeans. The native people, lacking immunity against smallpox, chicken pox, and influenza, died by the thousands. The English decided that the deaths of so many Indians proved God's divine intervention on their behalf, so they built fences around the natives' cultivated fields and laid claim to their decimated villages.



Loewen makes it clear that millions of Native Americans were the true settlers, having lived in North America thousands of years before the first Europeans arrived. He states that when high school textbooks limit historic facts, students are denied the opportunity to discuss issues and compare the past with current situations.

*Lies My Teacher Told Me, Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*, contains some information that is completely true, some flat-out false, and some the scholars just aren't certain about. The book is easy-to-read, portraying American history in an interesting, exciting, and at times, stark manner. Chapter Three, the First Thanksgiving, is an example of the book's many areas of extensive research. It has well-documented footnotes, an extensive

bibliography, an appendix, and an index. An updated edition was published in 2018 and is sure to generate as much controversy as the original. *Lies* is a great read for those wanting to delve deeper into our country's past—warts and all, and I'm raring to discover more!