



CLIO

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Western Connecticut State College



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Editor's Introduction

The 4th of July, 1976, commemorates the American Bicentennial. Red, White, and Blue colors everything from house fronts to shower curtains, and "Happy Birthday America" is a familiar bit of revelry.

The notion that the Fourth of July is the country's birthday is faulty. Although independence was declared in July of 1776, the United States as we know it was not yet even imagined. The government operating under a constitution did not become a reality until 1789, some 13 years later.

No matter how well masked by birthday candles the celebration is, the date commemorates the commencement of the American Revolution, a struggle that properly should never end.

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This issue of the CLIO is the product of our interest in local history. Student, faculty and administrative cooperation have facilitated its production.

A few words of explanation about the cover are in order. The top photograph is typical of the scenery found at Putnam State Park on the Redding Bethel town line. The other is typical of the scenery found in Pennsylvania at Valley Forge State Park. Obviously, from the contrast, the priorities evident within the two states are different.

Recently the small museum at Putnam Park was ransacked and over \$1,000 worth of Revolutionary War Relics were stolen. Recent budgetary problems have prevented the State of Connecticut from investing a similar sum of money in a burgler alarm.

It is easy to curse the State and chide its negligence, but ultimately the government is responsible to its electors. Tacit approval of this sort of budgetary management will allow its continuance. Whether we particularly like the responsibility or not, we are the State, and we are entitled to set its priorities. The next move is ours.