

# In 1776

by: Jean Marzollo

In seventeen hundred and seventy-five,  
A long, long time ago,  
Great Britain ruled America-  
There was some trouble, though.

The colonists were angry  
Because they had no say  
When the British king gave orders  
Three thousand miles away.

The king said, "Pay more taxes!"  
Americans said, "No!"  
Some even told British,  
"It's time for you to go!"

The British marched from Boston;  
The farmers didn't run;  
In Lexington and Concord  
The fighting has begun.

In seventeen hundred and seventy-six,  
Excitement filled the air;  
But what the colonists needed  
Was a statement to declare.

So their leaders met in Philly,  
In June and in July,  
They picked some men to tell the king,  
"We must be free- here's why!"

The committee talked and wrote for days;  
At times it wasn't fun;  
Then Thomas Jefferson penned the words  
And the Declaration was done.

*We hold these truths to be self-evident,  
that all men are created equal, that they are  
endowed by their Creator with certain  
unalienable Rights, that among these are Life,  
Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.*

The Declaration of Independence  
Said everyone has the right  
To life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,  
For this, men said, we'll fight!

On the Fourth of July, in seventy-six,  
After a long and heated morn,  
The Declaration was approved,  
And the U.S.A. was born.

Americans had their statement-  
Ideals worth fighting for,  
A country of their very own  
With liberty at the core.

American forces continued to fight;  
George Washington was the chief.  
Through heat and cold, they won the war...

And felt a great relief.

No longer ruled by a bossy king  
On a distant British throne,  
Americans voted in eighty-nine  
For a president of their own.

Can you guess who won the vote?  
Can you guess who won the day?  
The winner was George Washington-  
Number One in the U.S.A.

The war was over long ago;  
The U.S. and Britain are now good friends.  
The Declaration still guides us all;  
The struggle for liberty never ends.

