



TWO LIGHTS FOR TOMORROW

*Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;*

*One, if by land, and two, if by sea'
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country folk to be up and to arm.*

Paul Revere's Ride (excerpts)
By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

So starts the American Revolution 250 years ago when 77 patriots stood up to over 700 British troops on the Lexington Green and "the shot heard round the world" began the war for independence. In the hours before the early dawn battle, couriers Paul Revere and William Dawes awoke residents with "The British Are Coming!" alerting local militiamen to take up arms and protect against the invasion. The patriots were instructed to look to the steeple of Boston's Old North Church to know how the British would arrive, one light would be illuminated if by land, and two lights if by sea.

Following the Lexington battle, word quickly traveled to Connecticut by way of courier Israel Bissell that more men and "fresh horses" were needed for further battle.

About 100 men from the Lymes joined over 4,000 militiamen from Connecticut in marching to Lexington to join the effort. Familiar names such as Sill, Beckwith, and Griswold were among the many men who traveled from the Lymes to support the April 1775 battle for independence.

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of this famous start of the Revolutionary War, the Town of Old Lyme is joining the national **Two Lights for Tomorrow**.

Friday Evening, April 18:

Display two lights in your window to commemorate Paul Revere's call to action, and as a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.

Take a photo of your two lights and post on social media with the tag **#townoldlyme** for our digital album of Old Lyme participation.



Town of Old Lyme
America 250 Committee
OldLyme-ct.gov

Learn more about Old Lyme's participation in the Revolution at ExploreOldLyme.com/America250

