Sybil Ludington:
'The Other Paul Revere'

Many people know the story of Paul Revere. In April 1775, Revere hopped on his horse and warned people around Boston that "The British are coming!"

But have you ever heard of Sybil Ludington? Sybil was the oldest child of Colonel Henry Ludington and his wife, Abigail, who ran a mill in the village of Fredericksburg, New York. Sybil had 11 brothers and sisters. In addition to running the mill, Colonel Ludington was commander of a 500-member volunteer regiment.

On April 25, 1777, about 2,000 British soldiers landed on Long Island Sound near Fairfield, Connecticut. The force, led by General William Tryon, traveled inland to Danbury where they set fire to many homes as well as buildings that were full of war supplies and food. As Danbury burned, messengers were sent out in all directions to spread news of the British troops that were setting fires.

One messenger landed on Colonel Ludington's doorstep at about 9 o'clock on April 26. The colonel knew it was just a matter of time before British troops would cross into New York. He needed to warn his troops, who were scattered over many miles. The messenger was tired and not familiar with the area, but Colonel Ludington's daughter, Sybil, knew the area well. With her father's blessing, 16-year-old Sybil set off on her faithful horse, Star, to warn of the British soldiers' advance on Danbury.

Before dawn, Sybil had traveled more than 40 miles and warned dozens of families. Within hours, Colonel Ludington's troops had gathered and were headed toward Connecticut. While they were too late to save Danbury, they *were* able to stop British soldiers from moving farther inland. The British soldiers soon headed back to Long Island Sound.

In the days ahead, people spread the word about Sybil and her brave ride on a rainy night. Before long, General George Washington would travel to her house to thank her for her courage.

Sybil Ludington lived to be 78 years old. Today, the village of Fredericksburg (part of modern-day Kent, New York) has been renamed Ludingtonville in honor of her "midnight ride." A statue of Sybil stands outside the Danbury Library.