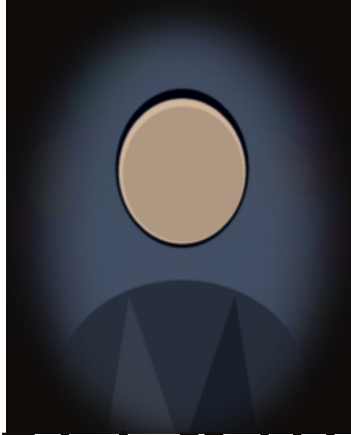




Edwin Hubble

November 20, 1889 - September 28, 1953

San Marino, California

Edwin Powell Hubble - American astronomer who proved that spiral "nebulae" were galaxies beyond the Milky Way and that the universe itself is expanding - died in San Marino, California, on September 28, 1953. He was sixty-three. Born November 20, 1889, in Marshfield, Missouri, and raised partly in Illinois, he studied law at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, then abandoned briefs for Mount Wilson Observatory, where the 100-inch Hooker telescope waited like a larger eye.

Cepheid variables in Andromeda gave him distance; redshift gave him velocity; together they yielded the relation later called Hubble's law - farther galaxies recede faster, a cosmic stretch that remade cosmology. He classified galaxies with a tuning-fork diagram still taught in classrooms, argued for observational rigor, and wore a cape of Midwestern confidence into Pasadena society. A heart attack in 1949 slowed him; a cerebral thrombosis ended the work before a Nobel could catch up to astronomy's rules of the time.

San Marino, near the observatory that made him famous, was home at the end. He died suddenly, leaving plates, papers, and a sky that no longer fit inside one galaxy.

Marshfield boyhood and Chicago training taught discipline; Mount Wilson nights taught patience measured in emulsion. He served in both world wars' orbits of duty, then returned to glass and dark.

He died in San Marino on September 28, 1953. The space telescope that bears his name still sends home proof that his distances were only the beginning.

Hubble's gift was scale - making the Milky Way a neighborhood, not the whole map. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 28 remembers the Missouri-born observer who widened America's sky.

Services

Died in San Marino, California, September 28, 1953. Astronomer; extragalactic astronomy; Hubble's law; Mount Wilson Observatory.

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