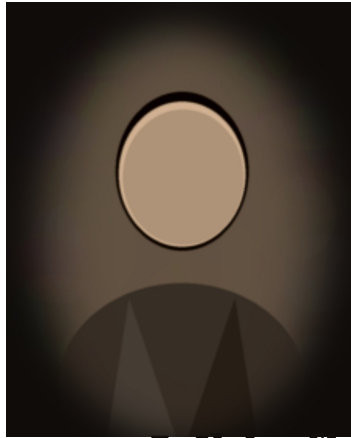




George Whitefield

December 27, 1714 - September 30, 1770

Newburyport, Massachusetts

George Whitefield - English-born evangelist whose open-air preaching helped ignite the Great Awakening across the American colonies - died in Newburyport, Massachusetts, on September 30, 1770. He was fifty-five. Born December 27, 1714, in Gloucester, England, he rose from an innkeeper's son to an Oxford Methodist whose voice could fill fields when church doors proved too small for the crowds.

Crossing the Atlantic repeatedly, he preached from Georgia to New England, founding Bethesda orphanage near Savannah and forging uneasy alliances and rivalries with Jonathan Edwards, John Wesley, and colonial audiences hungry for spiritual urgency. Benjamin Franklin famously measured the reach of Whitefield's voice outdoors and printed his journals. Critics called him theatrical; followers called him necessary. He made emotional conversion a public event and left a revival culture that reshaped American Protestant life long after the scaffolding of tents came down.

Newburyport was his final pulpit town. Exhausted by travel and asthma, he died the morning after preaching, and was buried beneath the Old South Presbyterian Church.

England taught him doctrine; the colonies taught him distance and appetite. He preached as if every meadow were a cathedral and every listener a soul on deadline.

He died in Newburyport on September 30, 1770. Somewhere an open field still holds the echo of a sermon delivered without a roof.

Whitefield's gift was portable conviction - making awakening travel by voice alone. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 30 remembers the Gloucester-born preacher who bound colonial America with revival fire.

Services

Died in Newburyport, Massachusetts, September 30, 1770. Evangelist of the Great Awakening; open-air preaching; Bethesda orphanage.

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