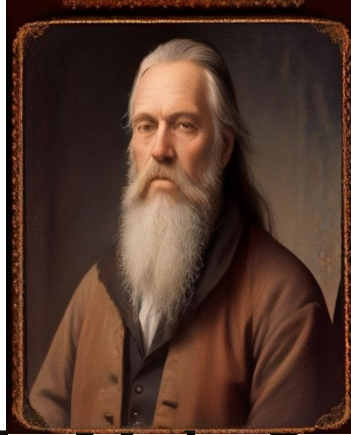




John Wesley Powell

March 24, 1834 - September 23, 1902

Haven, Maine

John Wesley Powell - American geologist, ethnologist, and Civil War veteran who led the first U.S. government-backed boat expedition through the Grand Canyon - died at his summer home in Haven, Maine, on September 23, 1902. He was sixty-eight. Born March 24, 1834, in Mount Morris, New York, he lost part of his right arm at Shiloh, then turned westward with a scientist's appetite and a soldier's stubbornness.

In 1869 his Colorado River party ran the Green and Colorado through unknown canyon country, mapping walls that newspapers could barely describe. He later directed the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Ethnology, arguing that arid-land settlement needed honest hydrology rather than booster myths. His writings on Native cultures remain contested and foundational at once - documents of a government scientist who listened in the field even when policy later failed the people he studied.

Haven, Maine, was a quiet northern ending after decades of Washington offices and Western camps. He died after declining health, having already reshaped how Americans pictured the interior West.

He died in Haven on September 23, 1902. River runners still speak his name when the canyon walls narrow.

Powell's gift was exploratory science - measuring the West instead of merely claiming it. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 23 remembers the one-armed major who took boats into the Grand Canyon and brought maps home.

Services

Died in Haven, Maine, September 23, 1902. Geologist and explorer; 1869 Colorado River expedition; director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

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