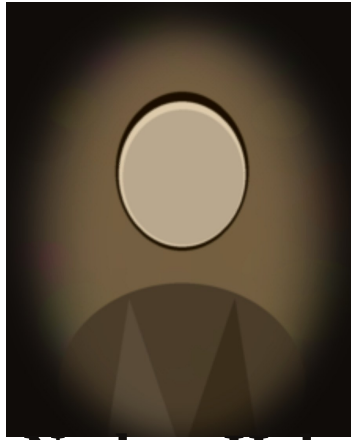




Nathan Hale

June 6, 1755 - September 22, 1776

New York, New York

Nathan Hale - Connecticut schoolmaster turned Continental Army captain and spy - was hanged by the British in New York City on September 22, 1776, at about age twenty-one. Born June 6, 1755, in Coventry, Connecticut, he graduated from Yale, taught briefly, and volunteered when Washington needed intelligence after the fall of New York. Disguised as a Dutch schoolteacher, he crossed British lines on Long Island; he was caught with notes in Latin on troop positions and sentenced without a formal trial.

Tradition holds that before the rope he declared he only regretted having but one life to lose for his country - a line later polished into American civic scripture, whether or not every syllable was exact. What is certain is the youth of the intelligence officer, the haste of the British military justice, and the speed with which patriot printers turned a failed mission into a martyr's story. His body was buried in an unmarked grave; the precise site remains debated among historians of Revolutionary New York.

Yale classmates and Connecticut neighbors had known a mild teacher, not a legend. War compressed that life into a single September morning near what is now midtown Manhattan - a public hanging meant to discourage other spies, and instead a name that outlived the generals who ordered it.

He died in New York on September 22, 1776. Statues and school names still carry him; the death date remains the hinge of the story.

Hale's gift was volunteered courage - accepting a mission that more seasoned officers declined. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 22 remembers the Connecticut teacher who became America's most famous

Revolutionary spy.

Services

Hanged in New York City, September 22, 1776. Continental Army captain and spy; Yale College graduate; born Coventry, Connecticut.

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