



Connecticut
Landmarks

News Release

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Nathan Hale Symposium The Life and Times of Nathan Hale



Coventry, CT- On Saturday, August 7th from 10 am to 4:30 pm, Connecticut Landmarks will present a symposium on the life and times of Connecticut State Hero, Nathan Hale. Walter Woodward, Connecticut State Historian, will be the keynote speaker of the symposium which will include presentations by Richard E. Mooney, Kevin M. Sweeney and M. William Phelps. Bruce M. Stave will moderate a panel discussion. The event will conclude with a reception and special tour of the Nathan Hale Homestead, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and evokes a sense of Connecticut's legendary patriotic and agrarian heritage. The house, built in 1776, belonged to the parents and family of Nathan Hale and is located on the only site he ever called home.

The morning portion of the symposium will be located at the First Congregational Church of Coventry, 1171 Main Street, followed by the tour and reception of the Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street, Coventry. The registration fee is \$50 each, or \$40 for CTL members, which includes lunch. Registration is required as space is limited. To register call 860.247.8996 ext. 23, or email jamie.fontaine@ctlandmarks.org.

The Lectures:
The Burning Issue About Nathan Hale
by **Walter W. Woodward**

The Connecticut State Historian will be the keynote speaker of the symposium. Woodward is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut and author of *Prospero's America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy, and the Creation of New England Culture, 1606-1676*.

Nathan and Me: What I Learned from Nathan Hale

by Richard E. Mooney

Mooney is the former Executive Editor of the *Hartford Courant*, correspondent and member of the editorial board of the *New York Times* and curator of *Nathan Hale: Yale, 1773*, an exhibition commemorating the 250th anniversary of the hero's birth (www.library.yale.edu/mssa/exhibits/hale/).

Hale, His Life & Legacy: Separating Fact From Fiction

by M. William Phelps

Phelps is an investigative journalist and author of the recent biography, *Nathan Hale: The Life and Death of America's First Spy*.

The Hales' Homestead: Material Life in Colonial Connecticut

by Kevin M. Sweeney

Sweeney is a Professor of American Studies and History at Amherst College and author of *Captors And Captives: The 1704 French And Indian Raid on Deerfield*.

Panel Moderator

Bruce M. Stave is Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History and Director, Oral History, at the University of Connecticut. Stave is a resident of Coventry and author of *Mills and Meadows: A Pictorial History of Northeast Connecticut*.

About the Nathan Hale Homestead

The Hale Homestead is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the birthplace of Connecticut's State Hero, Nathan Hale. The house, built in 1776, belonged to Nathan Hale's parents and family, and is located on the only site he ever called home. Nathan was one of twelve children born to Richard and Elizabeth Hale.

Nathan Hale was a Yale-educated school teacher and was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Continental Army in 1775. A year later he volunteered to go behind British lines on Long Island to gather military intelligence desperately needed by General George Washington, but the British captured Hale and, when they discovered he was a spy, hanged him. He was only 21. He is famous for his alleged last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

In 1776 Hale's father, Deacon Richard Hale built the new home on the family homestead which has changed little since. It's situated on 17 acres, adjoining the 1500-acre Nathan Hale State Forest. Its furnishings include several Hale family possessions and other collections amassed by pioneer Connecticut antiquarian George Dudley Seymour, who purchased the homestead in 1914 and began a program of restoration and furnishing that is largely preserved today.

About Connecticut Landmarks

Founded in 1936 as the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, Connecticut Landmarks is the largest statewide heritage museum organization in Connecticut. The historic landmark properties span four centuries of Connecticut history and include: the Amasa Day House, Moodus; the Amos Bull House,

Hartford; the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden, Bethlehem; the Butler-McCook House & Garden and Main Street History Center, Hartford; the Buttolph-Williams House, Wethersfield; the Hempsted Houses, New London; the Isham-Terry House, Hartford; the Nathan Hale Homestead, Coventry; the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden, Suffield.

Connecticut Landmarks' mission is to inspire interest and encourage learning about the American past by preserving selected historic properties, collections and stories and presenting programs that meaningfully engage the public and our communities. For more information, please visit www.ctlandmarks.org.

Photo: Details of Hale statues in bronze and clay by Bela Lyon Pratt.

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