

# Enoch Crosby

- *Summary by: Jeremy Wilson*

**Branch:** Army

**Rank:** Spy

**Years of Service:** 1775 - 1783

**Location of Service:** United States



Enoch Crosby was born on January 4, 1750 in Harwich, Massachusetts. He died on June 26, 1835 on his farm in Brewster at the age of 85.

## Summary of his service

When the Revolutionary War began, Enoch Crosby enlisted almost immediately.

Crosby served as a soldier in the Connecticut regiment, during which he became a part of the invasion of Canada by the Continental Army. After Montreal was captured and Crosby's enlistment expired, he returned to life as a shoemaker. In September, 1776, Crosby rejoined the Continental army, which took him to White Plains. On the way, he was invited to join a meeting of loyalist locals by mistake. There he learned information about the loyalists, which he forwarded to John Jay who helped him to arrest the loyalists. Jay recruited Crosby to spy for him and to gather information from the British and Loyalists. Crosby assumed the second identity of a spy for the British General Howe, which sparked animosity between him and his friends and family as well as other Americans, who believed him to be a Loyalist and repeatedly captured him. Every time he was captured he escaped. He served in Westchester County, farther north near Lake Champlain, and in other areas. The intelligence Crosby gathered proved useful to George Washington at least once.

## Returning Home

After the war, Crosby and his brother purchased a farm in Brewster, on which Crosby died.

## Local Recognition

Crosby's life was the basis for the character Harvey Birch in *"The Spy,"* a novel written by the American writer James Fennimore Cooper.