

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Chronology by Roy Harvey Pearce

- 1804 Born July 4, in Salem, Massachusetts, second of three children of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Manning Hawthorne. (Hawthorne added a *w* to the family's name sometime after 1830.)
- 1808 Death of father. Mrs. Hawthorne and her children move into her parents' home.
- 1813 Injury to foot incurred playing ball causes lameness which prevents regular school attendance for two years and two months.
- 1818 Hawthornes move to family property in Raymond, Maine, and Nathaniel is sent to school in Portland.
- 1819-21 Living with Manning relatives, attends school in Salem.
- 1821-25 At Bowdoin College, Maine. Class mates include Henry W. Longfellow and Franklin Pierce. Begins writing fiction.
- 1825-35 Returns to Salem to live in the Manning house with his mother and sisters and tries to establish himself as a professional writer.
- 1828 *Fanshawe* published in Boston at his own expense. Ashamed of his first effort, he destroys his own copy and refuses to discuss the book in later years. It was not republished until 1876.
- 1830-32 First publications. "The Gentle Boy," "**My Kinsman, Major Molineaux**," and "Roger Malvin's Burial," are published in *The Token* in 1832.
- 1835-36 Publishes stories and sketches, among them "The Minister's Black Veil" in 1836 and "**Young Goodman Brown**."
- 1837 *Twice-Told Tales*, a collection of 18 of the stories that had appeared in periodicals. In Salem he meets Sophia Peabody, his future wife. Her sister Elizabeth, friend of R. W. Emerson and, later, publisher of the *Dial*, begins her efforts to champion his reputation.
- 1839 With the help of Elizabeth Peabody, is appointed Weigher and Gauger at Boston Custom House. Becomes engaged to Sophia Peabody.
- 1840-41 Publishes three children's books: *Grandfather's Chair*, *Famous Old People*, *Liberty Tree*.
- 1841 Resigns from Custom House. Joins utopian community of Brook Farm in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, but leaves after eight months.
- 1842 Marries Sophia on July 9. Rents Old Manse in Concord, ancestral property of the Emerson family, where he lives for the next three and a half years. New edition of *Twice-Told Tales*.
- 1842-45 During "Old Manse" period becomes acquainted with transcendentalist circle—Emerson, Thoreau, Bronson Alcott, Margaret Fuller. Publishes twenty sketches and stories including "The Birth-mark," "The Artist of the Beautiful," "Rappaccini's Daughter."
- 1844 daughter, Una, born.
- 1845 The Hawthornes move in with his mother and sisters in Salem.
- 1846 The political influence of his friend Pierce and other friends in the Democratic Party secures his appointment as Surveyor in the Salem Custom House. Son, Julian, born. *Mosses from an Old Manse* is published.
- 1849 Hawthorne removed from his post following election of Whig President, Zachary Taylor. Begins *The Scarlet Letter*.
- 1850-51 ***The Scarlet Letter*, 1850.** Hawthorne moves to Lenox, Massachusetts, in the Berkshire Mountains. Meets Herman Melville, whose laudatory review, "Hawthorne and his Mosses," appears anonymously in the *Literary World*. Establishes a brief, though profound, mental communion with Melville.
- 1851 ***The House of the Seven Gables*** and *A Wonder-Book for Girls and Boys*. New edition of *Twice-Told Tales*. Third collection, *The Snow Image*. Birth of second daughter, Rose.
- 1852 ***The Blithedale Romance***. Buys The Wayside, Alcott's former house, and returns to Concord after absence of seven years.
- 1853 *Tanglewood Tales*, another children's book. Appointed American consul at Liverpool by President Pierce.
- 1853-57 Carries on as Consul until October 1857. In Spring 1857 visited by Herman Melville for the last of their meetings.
- 1858-59 Hawthornes travel to France and Italy. Begins *The Marble Faun*.
- 1859 Returns to England in June and remains there with his family until following year.
- 1860 ***The Marble Faun*** (in England the title is *The Transformation*) published in England and America.
- 1860-62 Depressed by the Civil War. In Concord, resumes work on his English romance but after two drafts abandons the project. Begins work on another romance about an elixir of life, also abandoned after two drafts.
- 1864 Dies in his sleep, May 19, in Plymouth, New Hampshire.