

# Nathaniel Hawthorne

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July 4, 1804 – May 19, 1864



# Origins

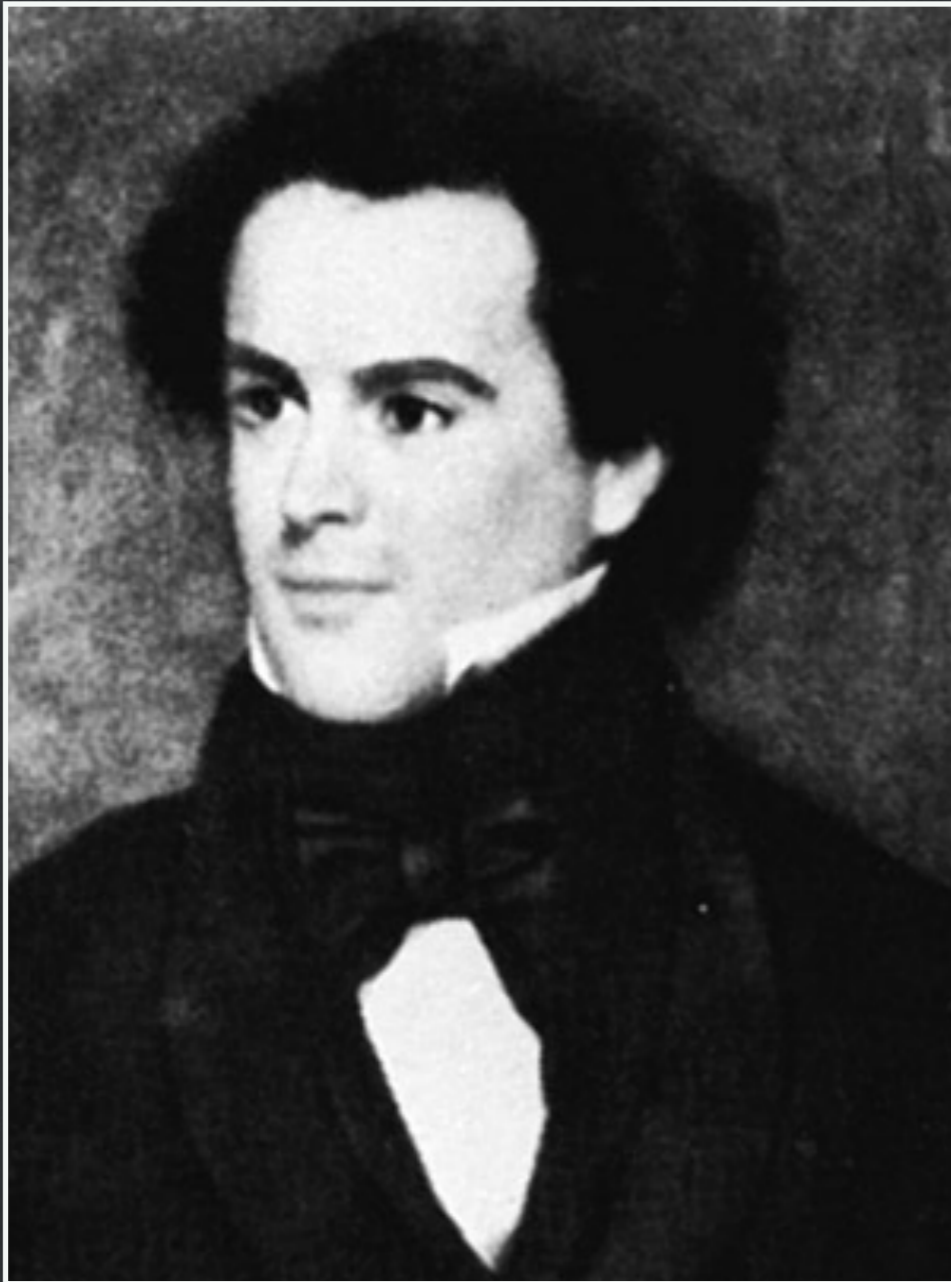
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- Born Nathaniel Hathorne to parents Nathaniel Hathorne and Elizabeth Clarke Manning.**
- His great-great-great grandfather, William Hathorne emigrated from England to Dorchester and, later, Salem, Massachusetts.**
- John Hathorne, his great-great grandfather served as one of the judges from the Salem Witch trials.**
  - Surname change for Nathaniel Hathorne the younger. Hathorne to Hawthorne.**



# Personal and Professional Experiences

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- Bowdoin College
- Engagement to Sophia Peabody
- Fanshawe, Twice Told Tales, The Scarlet Letter, and The Wayside



# Death

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- Met Abraham Lincoln; recounted in essay "Chiefly About War Matters"**
- Died in his sleep in May 1864 while in Plymouth, New Hampshire.**



# Works to be Explored

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- "The Minister's Black Veil"
- "Young Goodman Brown"



# Writing Influences

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- Salem, Massachusetts and the Salem Witch Trials
- Puritan family background
  - Most of his writings are allegories on Puritan morality
- Belief in the existence of the devil
- Belief in determinism
- Parables and allegories of John Bunyan and Edmund Spenser



# Literary Movements

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- American Romanticism (1800-1840)**
  - Belief in the individual**
  - Love of and reverence for nature**
  - Strong emotions versus logic**
  - Interest in the bizarre, supernatural, and gothic**
  - Melancholy**
  - Interest in the past**



# Literary Movements

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- Dark Romanticism**
  - Spiritual truth may be ugly or frightening**
  - Suspense (uncertainty, anxiety, and ambiguity)**
  - Gloomy, pessimistic side of human nature**
  - Psychological effects of guilt, sin, and madness**
  - Symbols represent deeper, moral, and spiritual meanings**
  - Human events are signs of spiritual truths**



# Things to Consider While Reading

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- Alienation
- Initiation
- Problem of Guilt
- Pride
- Puritan New England
- Allegory