

APPENDIX 1

BIOGRAPHY OF NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

(1804-1864)

Nathaniel Hawthorne was one of the greatest American Fiction writers. He was born on July 4th, 1804 in Salem, Massachusetts in the family home at 27 Hardy Street, now a museum. He was the son of Elizabeth Clarke Manning and Nathaniel Hathorne, a Captain in the U. S. Navy who died when Nathaniel was four years old. His ancestors were some of the first Puritans to settle in the New England area; William Hathorne and William's son John Hathorne. They were involved in great crimes at that time. The family fortunes had declined since those early days. Hawthorne wondered it was a punishment for the sin of his ancestors. After his father died Nathaniel and his mother moved to her parents' home just a few doors down from 27 Hardy Street, which Hawthorne referred to as 'Castle Dismal'.

Hawthorne attended Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine (1821-24) along with his fellow; [Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#) who was a poet and American President Franklin Pierce, of whom he wrote a biography of in 1852. Hawthorne was not interested in entering any of the traditional professions; he was an avid reader and already writing his own short stories and had published in many magazines. His immature novel *Fanshawe* was published in 1828. Upon graduation he continued to write stories and sketches, some of them included in his collection *Twice Told Tales* (1837). Longfellow would write a favourable review of it in *North American Review* magazine. It was not a lucrative pursuit so Hawthorne worked at the Salem Custom-House (1839-1840) to augment his income. He also lived at the experimental transcendentalist community 'Brook Farm' (1841), but stayed only a year.

In Boston on July 9th, 1842 Hawthorne married painter and his fellow transcendentalist; Sophia Peabody. They had three daughters; Una (1844-1877) and Rose (1851-1926), and an author [Julian Hawthorne](#) (1846-1934). The newly married couple

settled in the heart of Transcendentalist country Concorde, Massachusetts, living in the 'The Old Manse', Concord, Massachusetts. He recorded his short stories of three years there in *American Notebooks*. Thus, Hawthorne's further collection of short stories entitled *Mosses from an Old Manse* (1846). His success brought more esteem than money. In the same year he took a post at Salem Custom House which he received from the Democratic Administration; James K. Polk. Unfortunately, he was ousted by the Whig Administration; Zachary Taylor in 1849. Though merely angered at that time, then he saw his loss as a blessing. He sat down to write *The Scarlet Letter* (1850). This novel proved to be his greatest novel and made him famous.

For a year and a half following the publication of *The Scarlet Letter*, Hawthorne lived in Berkshires, near Lenox, where he wrote *The House of Seven Gables* (1851). In 1852 Hawthorne bought his home to Massachusetts where the Alcotts (one of New England's finest intellectuals) had once lived and called 'Hillside'. He next worked on *The Blithedale Romance* (1852) based on his experience in Brook Farm and the re-telling of ancient Greek Myths in *Tanglewood Tales for Girls and Boys* (1853). The same year, the Hawthorne family set sail for Liverpool, England where Nathaniel served as U.S. Consul for four years. They traveled throughout Europe and lived for a time in France and Italy. While in Italy Hawthorne wrote *The Marble Faun* (1860).

As they went back home at The Wayside, Hawthorne continued to write of his travels in his *Passages From Notebooks* volumes. These were years of sadness, frustration, and failing health. He managed to bring out a fine collection of England, *Our Old Home* (1863) but it seemed his skill fiction writing had declined. It was his last publication before his death. Nathaniel Hawthorne died on May 19th, 1864. Franklin Pierce, James Russell Lowell, [Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#) and Dr. [Oliver Wendell Holmes](#) were among the many who mourned the loss of their friend. Hawthorne lies buried on Author's Ridge in the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts among his many friends including the Alcotts, Emerson, and Thoreau. After devoting her remaining seven years to editing her husbands' notebooks for publication, Sophia died in 1871.

APPENDIX 2

SYNOPSIS

“The Scarlet Letter” (1850)

Roger Chillingworth, a skillful physician sent his wife a head Hester Prynne to America while he settled some affairs in Europe. They had planned before to live together in America. Unfortunately, Chillingworth never arrived. Prynne is left by her husband for two years without any tidings of him. As she is undergoing her life, she met the Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale her spiritual leader. It seemed they loved each other. They could not hold up strong passion which flared up between them. Thus, it led them to a mortal sin. They committed adultery. Their sinning gives them an illegitimate daughter named Pearl. Puritans held their law based on Bible strictly. Confession in front of public is a must as penance for the sinners before punishment. Prynne stood alone undergoing her punishment and receiving public humiliation without her partner; Dimmesdale. He was profoundly coward to admit his sin. Prynne was released from death because law court's great mercy and tenderness of heart but she had to wear scarlet letter "A" (Adultery) on her breast for the rest of her life. She insisted to keep the secret who was Pearl's father eventhough it gave her chance not to use the letter anymore as long as she lived. At the same moment Chillingworth arrived. He saw scenery which he did not want to see at his first arrival. He found her beloved wife standing at the pillory as a sinner. It ripped Chillingworth's heart. He also met Prynne to investigate what was going on. Prynne was silent. It seemed Chillingworth had to figure out it by himself. He swore to carry out his revenge to whom Prynne committed adultery with. His suspicion directed him to Dimmesdale. It was due to without any reason Dimmesdale's health was getting deteriorated. To prove it Chillingworth offered himself as private physician to serve Dimmesdale. They who were so different in age gradually got close each other. They spend much time together. Dimmesdale did not realize that his physician had hideous purpose on him. Chillingworth felt there something wrong done by Dimmesdale, the doctor intended to get admission from Dimmesdale directly. He strived to go deep into

his patient's mind, delved among his principles, pried into recollections, and probed everything carefully. Chillingworth had his own way to achieve what he wanted from Dimmesdale. Dimmesdale's condition was getting worst. There was no remarkable change after seven years. Prynne thought that Chillingworth was taking part toward what happened to Dimmesdale. Thus, she told him that Chillingworth He felt guilt toward what he had done. It seemed guilt was the cause of his deteriorated condition. It gnawed him physically and mentally. He was thinking so hard how to punish himself. He had big burden on his shoulders. Prynne told the truth about Chillingworth's identity and she set a plan for three of them; Prynne, Dimmesdale, and Pearl to flee on Election Day after Dimmesdale accomplished his duty; to preach. As the day came, Dimmesdale gave the best sermon he ever had. It was so touching everyone. Then, unexpectedly after he finished his sermon he went to the pillory and stood up there. He revealed the truth; what he hid for seven years and showed his scarlet letter on his naked breast. Everyone got shocked. The burden was removed. He already made public confession to release his guilt. Chillingworth failed to take his revenge on Dimmesdale. Unfortunately, Dimmesdale could not enjoy his victory his body could not restrain anymore he passed away.