

CONCORD CONNECTIONS: *Nathaniel Hawthorne*

Nathaniel Hawthorne was the only son of a family residing at the time of his birth at Salem, Massachusetts. His father was a seafarer whose ship had been lost at sea sometime prior to Nathaniel's birth in 1804. The family name was actually "Hathorne". As a young man, the future author himself chose to add the "w".

Nathaniel spent a large part of his formative years surrounded by his mother's relatives. These years included residence at a town called "Raymond" in the State of Maine.

At the age of 21, Nathaniel graduated from Bowdoin College. He then returned to Salem to live a hermit-like existence while seeking to establish himself as a writer.

At the age of thirty-eight following several years of writing and publishing short stories and essays as well as his first novel, he married Sophia Peabody from Boston. Their first home together was to be a house at Concord, Massachusetts, known since their residence as "The Old Manse".