

# **HAWTHORNE'S FIRST DIARY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649537778

Hawthorne's First Diary by Nathaniel Hawthorne

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

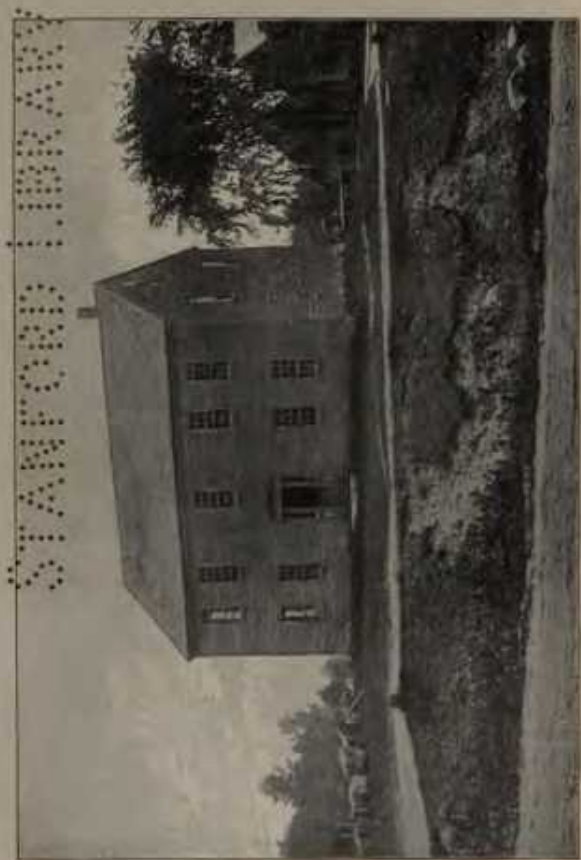
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**NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE**

**HAWTHORNE'S  
FIRST DIARY**





THE HAWTHORNE HOUSE, RAYMOND, MAINE

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

HAWTHORNE'S FIRST DIARY

Houghton, Mifflin  
Boston  
1897  
*67 a. cat*

## PREFACE

A DIARY kept by Nathaniel Hawthorne during his residence at Raymond, Maine, came to light in Virginia during the late civil war, and fell into the hands of a colored man named William Symmes, who, by a curious chance, was a companion of Hawthorne in his fishing and gunning sports on the shores of Lake Sebago. Symmes said he had the book from a Maine soldier whom he found in hospital. Because of his boyish friendship for Hawthorne, he so prized the Diary that he could not be induced to part with it. After holding it several years, he sent extracts from it to a Maine newspaper,

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carefully avoiding, however, to furnish an address by which he or his treasure could be found. It has been ascertained that he died at Pensacola, Florida, October 28, 1871. I have no doubt the Diary was in his possession at the time of his death, and it is reasonable to suppose that it is still somewhere in existence. It is my hope that the publication of this little volume may lead to the second finding of it.

There is so much of romantic interest attaching to the story of the life of the mulatto Symmes, that I venture to tell it, in connection with his account of his youthful association with Hawthorne. The materials for this sketch have been gathered with much care from many sources. Every word of the Diary, preserved by the copying of



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Symmes, is given in these pages, and I have added explanatory and confirmatory notes.

It is only fair to say that there have been serious doubts in regard to the authenticity of the notebook, caused by the at first inexplicable mystery which enveloped the conduct of the man Symmes. I believe, however, that the internal evidence of the master's hand will convince all who read these pages that they have before them a genuine work by one of the greatest of American authors. Since the death of Symmes, facts have come to light which partially explain much that was before mysterious and even suspicious.

I wish here to express my sense of obligation to Mr. Richard C. Manning, of Salem, a cousin of Hawthorne's, who

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has assisted me in gathering the information here given to the public. He has in his possession many of the early letters of his cousin, and from these I am permitted to copy, for comparison of style with the Diary, and also to show Hawthorne's great love for his Maine home.

S. T. P.

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