

# *Hathorne Family*

Chris And Rob Revision of document, Hathorne Family, so it is easier to read (top to bottom, rather than across):

The HATHORNE Family (also called Hathron, Harthorn, Hawthorne) (Jedidah Hathron m. Samuel Bigelow III) This has been one of the most difficult lines to follow. It was after much search in alphabetical files that I discovered that the name was spelled in various ways, and felt justified in attempting to tie Jedidah in with the descendants of William Hathorne who held many important offices in Salem, Massachusetts, beginning in 1639.

On an impulse, I looked up Nathaniel Hawthorne in the encyclopedia and found that he put the "W" in the Hathorne name. Although I realized that the author came at a later date than Jedidah, I became interested in Nathaniel and read several books about him. *THE HAWTHORNES*, by Vernon Loggins, set me straight on many counts. Nathaniel rightfully changed his name, as it was originally derived from Hawthorne in the village of Bray, England. Tradition says that it got its name from a hawthorne tree that stood at the crest of the hill, and that the yeoman who tilled the soil there adopted the name in the 16th century.

Loggins gives a thorough account of the English genealogy, including the legend that an innkeeper by the name of Hawthorne dreamed of buried treasure on Hawthorne Hill and found, not one, but two pots of old gold Roman coins when he dug there. This legend of his ancestors was the basis for *AN OLD WOMAN'S TALE* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

He also gives the authentic ancestry from Thomas Hawthorne of East Oakley, Bray, born around 1492, a simple yeoman, to the parents of William Hathorne III. William, and his wife, Sarah, married about 1605. He had inherited his father's lands and raised his station thereby.

According to Loggins "The Hathorne children were taught to believe that the Puritans were blind to truth, dead to virtue and unspeakably traitorous". Yet William III, who was born in 1605 and received an exceptional education for one of his class, was converted to puritanism when twenty-one years old, which must have been an incredible blow to his parents. He then decided to go to see the New World which other Puritans had told him about, and take with him his sister Elizabeth who was engaged to Richard Davenport. Richard had preceded them to Massachusetts. William also persuaded his parents to let him take little John, "a boy of only twelve, maybe nine", with them to America. John was probably supposed to work for his brother William until he was seventeen or eighteen years old. They sailed between 1630-1633. Some sources say that they were on the *ARBELLA* with Governor Winthrop,

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but it is not certain. They first settled at Dorchester, Mass., and Elizabeth and Richard Davenport were married.

William Hathorne married Ann (believed to be Ann Smith) in 1634. They moved to Salem in 1636. He became very prominent in Salem and was Deputy of the General Court and first Speaker of the New England Confederation. He was the Salem Military Commander and Governor's Assistant 1662-79. William was the strictest of Puritan judges, in the strictest of times, and the punishments, which he dealt out seem needlessly cruel to us now. Petty crimes might bring a flogging, but a man might have his ear cut off for stealing a large sum. Philandering, or manifesting "unclean desire", would land a person in the stocks, and many a settler received heavy fines for staying home from church. Witchery trials arose and he dealt with them, but the famous ones took place later when hisson had the sentencing task.

The Quakers were not welcomed by the Puritans and William "pursued them like bloodhounds", banishing many and executing some. Top Major William Hathorne died in April 1681. John, his son, carried on the tradition of cruelty in sentencing those who came in his court. Loggins gives a graphic account of the excitement of the times and the tragic trials which have always been associated with Salem. Nathaniel Hawthorne, the author, was the great-great grandson of John's son, Joseph.

Until I read Loggin's book I was convinced that we were descended from the ruthless Judge, William Hathorne. However, I am now confident that the little boy who accompanied him to America was our ancestor, and have followed his line as far as possible in searching for Jedidah's parents. John Hathorne does not present a pretty picture as an ancestor, but the modern-day psychiatrist could easily figure the reason. The over-pious elder brother must have caused a rebellious reaction in the boy.

**JOHN HATHORNE:** I do not know the exact date of his birth in Bray, England. It must have been about 1620. He came to America in 1630-33. It is believed that he worked for his brother as a child. He was made a Freeman in Salem in 1644 and married Sarah about this time. He received fifty acres of land towards the Great River. He also passed the strict regulations, which made him a member of the church. We are told that he could never have received these honors if he had not been the brother of the illustrious William, because he was perpetually in trouble and often dragged into William's court. William evidently maintained a great affection for him because the sentences rarely amounted to anything. Some of the offenses were minor but some quite serious in any day.

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He moved to Lynn in 1650, opened an ordinary or tavern, and was charged with forgery in less than two months. He was fined, but William lessened the fine when he was brought into General Court. He was often accused of failure to report drunkenness at his ordinary, of not expelling intoxicated revellers, and of "selling strong waters to the Indians and habitual drunkards". "Joseph Collins drank 17 quarters of rum at his ordinary!"

In spite of the many accusations against him he was a Lynn Selectman, often on the Jury, and was Quartermaster for the Essex County Militia. He died in his late fifties with an estate of 263 pounds. He willed a feather bed to each of his children.

Issue of John and Sarah:

1. Sarah, m. John Breed;
2. John, b. 1646, d. young;
3. Priscilla, b. 1649; m. Jonathan Shore
4. William, b. 1651, d. 1676;
5. Mary;
6. Ebenezer, b. 1656;
7. Nathaniel, b. 1660;
8. A child;
9. Phebe. One of their sons was indentured as a servant, papers signed by both John and William, and died an early death.

Since writing John's biography, I have found the following information about him in the Essex County, Mass., records: John Hathorne was born April 20, 162\_. He was admitted to the church in Salem in 1633. He lived in Salem until 1650, then moved to Malden, Mass., where he met and married Sarah, a tavern keeper. They moved to Lynn, Mass., in 1651, where they opened a Public House.

My reasons for settling on John as our probable ancestor are that Loggins explored the William Hathorne family very thoroughly, as William was the ancestor of the author, Nathaniel Hawthorne. Our ancestress, Jedidah Hathorne, was not among that branch of the family. Two of John's sons, Ebenezer and Nathaniel, moved to Marlborough, and Jedidah was born in that town. I then had to choose which of these two men was most likely to be her father, and settled on Ebenezer, as Nathaniel's children were listed in Marlborough records, which simply stated that Ebenezer had several children.

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II. EBENEZER HATHORNE b. in Lynn, Mass., in 1656 m. Esther Witt Dec. 26, 1683. There are many references to Ebenezer in the quaint Town Meeting records of Lynn 1691-1701 and 1701-1717. I bought these two publications from the Lynn Historical Society and they preserve the exact spelling, or lack of it, of the Town Clerk of Lynn in those days. For instance: "Ebenezer Harthorn Clameing a parsell of land on the southeast side of a tenn acer Lott cauled Edwardses Lott, and thay Not showing a good tyle to it, the Town voted (that) said Land should lye Comon: at a Town Meeting held ye 4 of May, 1693, this vote about the land above said was made Null that was about Ye Harthorns." Another: "For Ye gran Jury Novemr 11, 1695, them was chose to serve at ye superriar Court at Salem for Juryors" and several were "chose" including Ebenezer. He was also selected several times to "take care of swine be Yoaked and ringed, as the law directs for the year Ensewing."

The last record for Ebenezer in Lynn was in 1708. He must have moved to Marlborough about that time. A list of their children in the Lynn records gives: Sarah, Mary, John, Samuel, Hepzibah, and Ebenezer, Jr., who was born July 7, 1705. I believe that Jedidah was born after they moved to Marlborough.

WITT 1. Jonathon, m. Sarah --, d. 1675. 2. Jonathon Witt, Jr., m. Mary -- Copied from Lynn Town Meeting Book: Jonathon was made a "Selectman to Ordore the preudentiall affaires of ye town of Lyn for ye yearin sewing." 15 day Feb. 1691/2. He was a representative to the Court of Assizes many times and was "chose to vew ye accounts", to "serve at next Sueperyer Court holden at Ipswich May 12, 1698." In the same year he "was chose titheing man for ye year ensewing." 3. Esther Witt, m. Ebenezer Hathorne Dec. 26, 1683.

III. JEDIDAH HATHORNE I have not been able to find her date of birth. She was baptized only a year before her marriage to Samuel Bigelow. Date of Baptism: March 17, 1728; date of marriage: 1729. She lived in Shrewsbury which is only a mile or two from Marlborough

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