

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Born in the historic seaport of Salem, Massachusetts in 1804, Nathaniel Hawthorne came from a well-established New England family. When he was four his father, a sea captain, succumbed to yellow fever in Dutch Guiana (modern-day Surinam on the northern coast of South America). As a boy, Hawthorne sustained a foot injury that invalidated him for several years. Sometime after that, his family moved to Maine at the invitation of his mother's brother, Robert Manning. Although he regained his health, Hawthorne continued to live in intense solitude.

After graduating from Bowdoin College in 1825, Hawthorne returned to self-imposed isolation until his early thirties. At this time he read voraciously (notably Edmund Spenser, John Bunyan and John Milton), and became influenced by the European Romantic movement, and by Christian Humanism then running rampant in early America. Nathaniel was born a 'Hathorne,' but when the author found out that one of his ancestors was a judge involved in the infamous Salem witch trials, he added the 'w' to his name. Hawthorne's extended periods of isolation created a rather modest individual with a vivid imagination – and a close observer of his fellow man. He began writing from detailed notebooks, and worked at the Boston – and then the Salem – Custom House. For about a year he lived at the transcendentalist Brook Farm Institute of Agriculture and Education in West Roxbury, Massachusetts (mainly to save money for his marriage). Brook Farm was a brief experiment in communal living by individuals who believed in a Utopia.

Although biography can be a disputatious literary form, all of his chroniclers agree that Hawthorne was a Puritanical scholar who perceived all pleasure – except that of the intellect – to be immoral. Many of his writings are allegories with themes that focus on the inherent evil and sin of humanity. In 1837 he published *Twice-Told Tales*. In 1842 he married Sophia Peabody, moved to Concord, Massachusetts and entered into his most productive decade. In 1850 he returned to Salem and published *The Scarlet Letter*, which espouses the notion that accepting responsibility for a sin is better than ignoring it. A year later he wrote *The House of the Seven Gables*, in which Hawthorne maintains that one should retain the good in something and leave the evil part behind. In 1852 he wrote *The Blithedale Romance*, a somewhat dark tale (though certainly lighter than the two novels mentioned above) whose theme runs the full gamut of emotions from sin and guilt to the betterment of humanity. In 1853 his college buddy, President Franklin Pierce, appointed him consul to Liverpool, England. For a time he toured Europe with his family, then returned to America and resided in Concord. Nathaniel Hawthorne died while on travel at Plymouth, New Hampshire in 1864.

– essay by Bill Lounsbery

KRL has copies of the Hawthorne's major work in book and e-book formats

“CASSIDY”

Cassidy Ann Holtzman (1997-2012)

Just a year ago, on October 26th, a bright and enthusiastic South Kitsap High School student was struck by a car while she was crossing Jackson Avenue in Port Orchard. That student, Cassidy Ann Holtzman, 15, was already a very visible mover and shaker at the Manchester Library. This young individualist had become an active volunteer at the Library and was instrumental in creating and running the Girls Lego Club there. Heidi Larsen, youth activities librarian, spoke of how other girls joined and looked up to Holtzman and her sister, Carly. She said the sisters came up with all kinds of themes for the monthly meetings, which included music, mad libs and a lot of giggles. “Cassie was fully actualized. Cassie has just been wonderfully sparkly. She’s really smart.”

Sadly, Cassidy died from her injuries at Harborview Hospital on November 1st. Fellow students held a candlelight vigil for her on the Manchester dock.

Cassidy was the oldest child of Don and Rachel Holtzman who had moved to Kitsap County as a part of his job as an independent hospital corpsman at the Bremerton Naval Shipyard. Her family treasured her involvement at the Library and asked that gifts in memory be donated to that facility. Those gifts have provided important funding for the Legos Clubs since. The Holtzman family has since left Kitsap County, but the presence of their daughter Cassidy will not be forgotten.

She is remembered ... a quirky sense of humor ... an individualist

... Everything bacon ... “happy sweet funny and smart”

She and her younger sister, Carly, attended LEGO Club meetings at Manchester Library, but when the girls stopped attending, Heidi Larsen asked why. The girls admitted to feeling out of place among the boys, and said they wanted to start a LEGO Club for girls. Other girls joined and looked up to Holtzman and her sister, Larsen said. “Cassie was fully actualized. She was into really specific, quirky things,” Larsen said. “Cassie has just been wonderfully sparkly.”

She loved to read, enjoyed music and loved her dogs Moose and Chickey,

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Manchester Library or the Manchester Library Endowment Fund through the Friends of Manchester Library, P.O. Box 128, Manchester, WA 98353

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