

HISTORICAL GUIDES
TO AMERICAN AUTHORS

The Historical Guides to American authors is an interdisciplinary, historically sensitive series that combines close attention to the United States' most widely read and studied authors with a strong sense of time, place, and history. Placing each writer in the context of the vibrant relationship between literature and society, volumes in this series contain historical essays written on subjects of contemporary social, political, and cultural relevance. Each volume also includes a capsule biography and illustrated chronology detailing important cultural events as they coincided with the author's life and works, while photographs and illustrations dating from the period capture the flavor of the author's time and social milieu. Equally accessible to students of literature and of life, the volumes offer a complete and rounded picture of each author in his or her America.

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to Nathaniel Hawthorne



EDITED BY
LARRY J. REYNOLDS

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Hawthorne's Life

1804: Born 4 July in Salem, Massachusetts, the second of three children of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Manning Hathorne.

1808: Father, a sea captain, dies of yellow fever at Surinam (Dutch Guiana); moves with his mother and two sisters into the Manning family home in Salem.

Historical Events

1804: Lewis and Clark expedition (1804-6); Napoleon crowns himself emperor of France; Aaron Burr kills Alexander Hamilton in a duel; Thomas Jefferson reelected president.

1807: Act of Congress prohibits African slave trade; Robert Fulton's steamboat, the *Clermont*, makes its first run on the Hudson.



Nathaniel Hawthorne. Oil on canvas by Charles Osgood, 1840. Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass.



Gallows Hill, scene of the witch hangings of 1692. Photograph by Robb Studios. Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass.

1813: Injures his foot and suffers lameness for fourteen months.

1818: Moves with his family to Raymond, Maine, near Sebago Lake; hunts, fishes, and roams the wilderness.

1819: Returns to Salem and lives with the Mannings under the guardianship of his Uncle Robert Manning; attends school in Salem.

1821: Enters Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where he forms lifelong friendships with Horatio Bridge, Jonathan Cilley, and Franklin Pierce (fourteenth president of the United States).

1808: John Jacob Astor incorporates American Fur Company; James Madison elected president.

1809: Washington Irving, Knickerbocker's *History of New York*.

1811: Slave rebellion in Louisiana; Tecumseh, chief of the Shawnees, organizes confederacy of Indian tribes; William Henry Harrison defeats Indians at battle of Tippecanoe.

1812: War of 1812 (1812-15); Madison reelected president; George Gordon Byron, *Childe Harold* (1812-18).

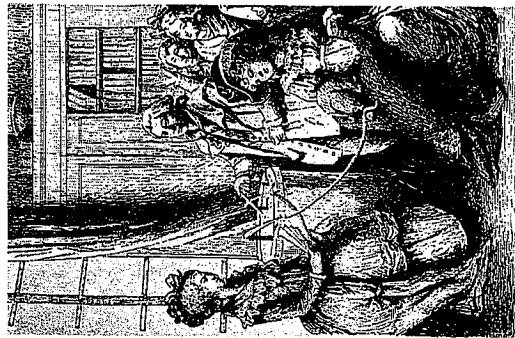
1813: American naval forces win the battle of Lake Erie.

1825: Graduates from Bowdoin; returns to Salem and lives with his mother and sisters for the next twelve years, taking trips throughout New England and pursuing a writing career.

1828: Publishes his first novel, *Fanshawe*, anonymously at his own expense but soon burns all copies he can locate.

1830: Publishes his first story, "The Hollow of the Three Hills," in the *Salem Gazette*.

1830-39: Publishes tales and sketches anonymously in newspapers, magazines, and *The Token*, an annual gift book.



Mesmer's tub. From a print in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.

1814: British burn Washington, D.C.; Treaty of Ghent ends war; Sir Walter Scott, *Waverley*.

1815: General Andrew Jackson defeats British at the battle of New Orleans; New England Federalists disband; Napoleon defeated at the battle of Waterloo; *North American Review* begins publication.

1816: James Monroe elected president.

1817: First Seminole War (1817-18); George Gordon Byron, *Manfred*.

1818: Regular transatlantic ship crossings between United States and Great Britain begin.

1819: Financial panic; first crossing of the Atlantic by a steamship; Sir Walter Scott, *Ivanhoe*; Washington Irving, *The Sketch Book* (1819-20).

1820: Congress passes Missouri Compromise; Sydney Smith, English clergyman and writer, asks, "Who reads an American book?"

1821: Mexico declares independence from Spain; Greek War for Independence begins; Santa Fe Trail opens; James Fenimore Cooper, *The Spy*.

1822: Denmark Vesey's conspiracy to lead slave uprising in South Carolina is discovered; Liberia founded by American Colonization Society.

1823: Monroe Doctrine proclaimed; James Fenimore Cooper, *The Pioneers*.

1824: Lafayette tours United States; Lord Byron dies at Missolonghi.

1825: Erie Canal opens, connecting Great Lakes with the Atlantic; Charles Finney leads religious revivals in New York state.

1826: American Society for the Promotion of Temperance founded; James Fenimore Cooper, *The Last of the Mohicans*.

1827: *Freedom's Journal*, first newspaper for blacks in America, begins publication; first U.S. passenger railroad chartered.

1828: Andrew Jackson elected president; Noah Webster, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*; Susanna Rowson, *Lucy Temple*.

1830: Indian Relocation Act allows Jackson to forcibly remove eastern Indians to areas west of the Mississippi; Joseph Smith, *Book of Mormon*.

1831: Supreme Court denies right of Cherokee tribe to sue in federal courts; Cyrus McCormick demonstrates his reaper; fur trappers explore the Rockies; William Lloyd Garrison founds the antislavery newspaper *the Liberator*; Nat Turner leads a slave rebellion in Virginia; James Kirke Paulding, *The Dutchman's Fireside*.

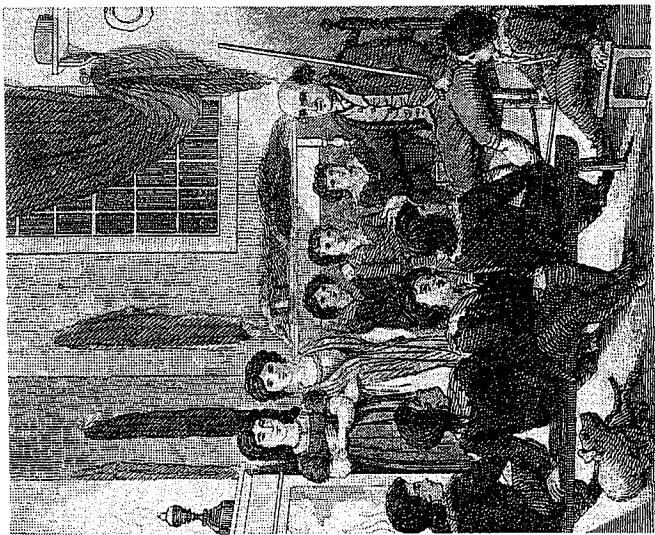


"Instructing the Sainity Child." Frontispiece (detail) to Graham's Magazine (1847).

1836: Moves to Boston for eight months to edit, with the help of his sister Elizabeth, the *American Magazine of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge*.

1837: Publishes Peter Parley's *Universal History*, also written with his sister Elizabeth; publishes *Twice-Told Tales* under his own name, with help from Horatio Bridge, who guarantees the publisher against loss; his former Bowdoin classmate Henry Wadsworth Longfellow writes favorable review.

1838: Almost challenges John L. O'Sullivan to a duel over Mary Silsbee; spends the summer in western Massachusetts collecting material for future writings; begins to publish in *United States and Democratic Review*.



Frontispiece to Samuel G. Goodrich, Peter Parley's Winter Tales (1829). Pierpont Morgan Library, New York. JPW 3670.

1839: Accepts appointment as salt and coal measurer at the Boston Custom House, obtained through the help of friends in the Democratic party, becomes engaged to Sophia Peabody.

1841: Resigns from Boston Custom House; publishes *Grandfather's Chair*, *Famous Old People*, and *Liberty Tree*; joins Brook Farm community in April and leaves in October.

1832: Black Hawk War begins; first streetcar goes into operation in New York City; New England Anti-Slavery Society formed; Joseph Mazzini founds Young Italy movement; Jackson reelected president; Washington Irving, *The Alhambra*.

1833: American Anti-Slavery Society formed; publication of *New York Sun*, first "penny press"; Oberlin, first co-education college, opens and admits blacks; Lydia Maria Child, *An Appeal in Favor of that Class of Americans Called Africans*.



Sophia (Peabody) Hawthorne. Etching by S. A. Schoff. Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass.



Brook Farm Buildings. By M. G. Cutter, 1910, after an 1845 drawing. Courtesy Concord Free Public Library

1842: Publishes *Biographical Stories for Children* and second, expanded edition of *Twice-Told Tales*; 9 July marries Sophia Peabody, and they rent the "Old Manse" in Concord; becomes friends with Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, and Ellery Channing.

1843: February, Sophia suffers a miscarriage.

1844: 3 March, daughter Una born.

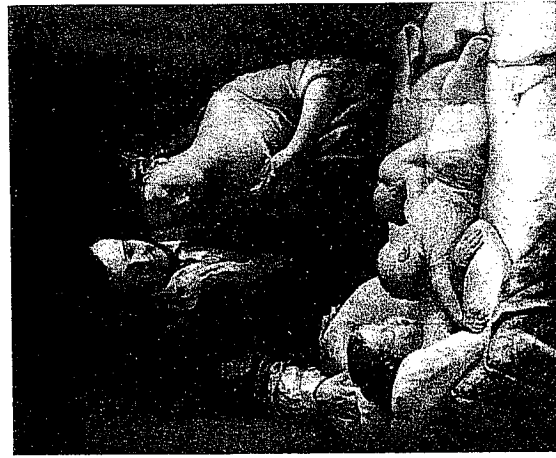
1845: Edits Horatio Bridge's *Journal of an African Cruiser*; moves family back to Salem, where they reside with his mother and sisters.

1834: Opponents of Andrew Jackson form Whig party.

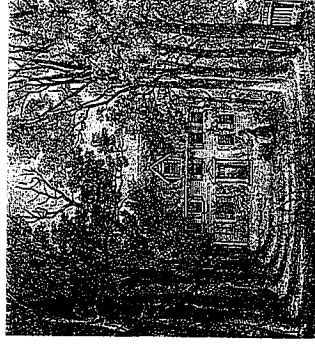
1835: Attempt to assassinate President Jackson fails; Samuel F. B. Morse invents the telegraph; Samuel Colt invents a pistol with a revolving cylinder.

1836: Texas proclaims independence from Mexico; battle of the Alamo; Martin Van Buren elected president; Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*; Washington Irving, *Astoria*.

1837: Financial panic and beginning of prolonged economic depression; Mount Holyoke, first women's college, established; Ralph Waldo



Domestic Happiness. Oil on canvas by Lilly Martin Spencer, 1849. Bequest of Dr. and Mrs. James Cleland, Jr. Photograph © 1993 Detroit Institute of Arts.



"The Old Manse." Engraving from Homes of American Authors (1833).

1846: Appointed surveyor in the Salem Custom House; *Mosses from an Old Manse* published; 22 June, son Julian born.

1849: June, removed from surveyorship by new Whig administration; 31 July, mother dies; September, becomes fully engaged in writing "The Scarlet Letter."

1850: *The Scarlet Letter* published; moves to the "Red Cottage" in Lenox, Massachusetts; becomes friends with Herman Melville.

1851: Publishes *The House of the Seven Gables*; 20 May, daughter Rose born; moves his family to West Newton, Massachusetts.

Emerson delivers "The American Scholar" address; Jared Sparks, *Life of Washington*; William Ware, *Zenobia*.

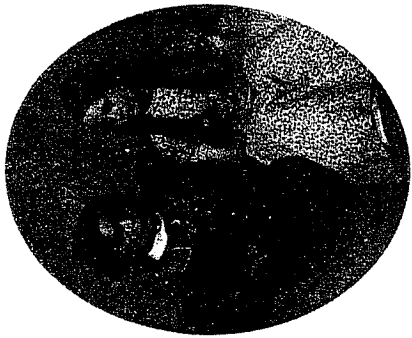
1838: Cherokees, removed from their homelands by federal troops, begin walking the Trail of Tears; Underground Railroad established; Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*.

1839: Louis Daguerre invents the photographic process known as daguerreotyping; American Art Union established in New York City.

1840: William Henry Harrison elected president; first issue of the *Dial* (1840-44), edited by Margaret Fuller; Edgar Allan Poe, *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque*.

1841: Dorothea Dix begins crusade on behalf of the insane; Brook Farm (1841-47) established at West Roxbury, Massachusetts; first covered wagon train leaves Kansas for California; the *New York Tribune*, edited by Horace Greeley, begins publication; Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essays, First Series*.

1842: P. T. Barnum opens his American Museum; Charles Dickens begins five-month tour of United States; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Ballads and Other Poems*.



Una and Julian Hawthorne.
Daguerreotype, c. 1850. Courtesy Boston Athenaeum.

1843: Charles Lane and Bronson Alcott found Fruitlands at Harvard, Massachusetts; North American Phalanx (1843–54), Fourierist community, established at Red Bank, New Jersey; William H. Prescott, *History of the Conquest of Mexico*; Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*.

1844: Mormon leader Joseph Smith killed by a mob at Carthage, Illinois; Goodyear patents vulcanization process; Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essays, Second Series*; George Lippard, *The Monks of Monk Hall*.

1845: Texas annexed; Ireland's potato crop fails, beginning mass migration to the United States; Henry Thoreau moves to Walden Pond; Margaret Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*; Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*; Alexandre Dumas, *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

1846: Mexican War (1846–48) begins; introduction of the cylinder press in the print industry; Herman Melville, *Typee*; Joel Tyler Headley, *Napoleon and His Marshals*.

1847: U.S. troops defeat Mexican armies; Mormons reach the Great Salt Lake; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Evangeline*; Alphonse de Lamartine, *History of the Girondists*; Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*.

1852: Publishes *The Snow-Image and Other Twice-Told Tales*, *A Wonder-Book for Girls and Boys*, *The Blithedale Romance*, and *The Life of Franklin Pierce*; moves to "The Wayside" in Concord, Massachusetts, the former home of Bronson Alcott; 27 July, sister Louisa dies in a steamboat accident on the Hudson River.

1853: Appointed U.S. consul at Liverpool by President Pierce; leaves for England; *Tanglewood Tales for Girls and Boys* published.

1848: Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill in California, beginning the gold rush; Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends Mexican War; revolutions erupt throughout Europe; first women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York; government troops kill thousands of workers during Bloody June Days in Paris; Whig Zachary Taylor elected president; Henry Thoreau delivers "Civil Disobedience" lecture; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *Communist Manifesto*; James Russell Lowell, *The Bigelow Papers*.



Frontispiece to Nathaniel Hawthorne, *A Wonder-Book for Girls and Boys* (1852). Pierpont Morgan Library, New York. PML 16664.

1854: Second, revised edition of *Mosses from an Old Manse* published.

1857: Resigns consulship.

1858: Travels to Italy by way of France; January to June resides in Rome; May to October lives near Florence, where he becomes friends with Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

1859: April, serious illness of daughter Una; returns to England.

1849: Astor Place riot in New York City leaves twenty-two dead; Margaret and Kate Fox in Rochester, New York, hold spirit-rapping sessions; Henry Thoreau, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*.

1850: Senator Daniel Webster of Massachusetts delivers speech on behalf of Compromise of 1850; Fugitive Slave Act goes into effect; Jenny Lind's tour (1850-52); Margaret Fuller dies in the shipwreck of the *Elizabeth*; Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Representative Men*; Susan Warner, *The Wide, Wide World*; Grace Greenwood, *Greenwood Leaves*.

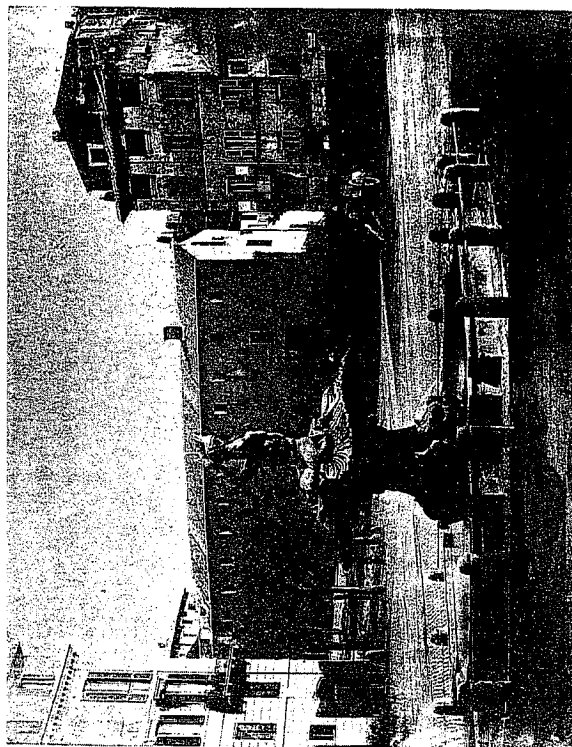


THE GOLDEN TOUCH.

"The Golden Touch." From Nathaniel Hawthorne, *A Wonder-Book for Girls and Boys* (1872). Pierpont Morgan Library, New York. PML 16664.



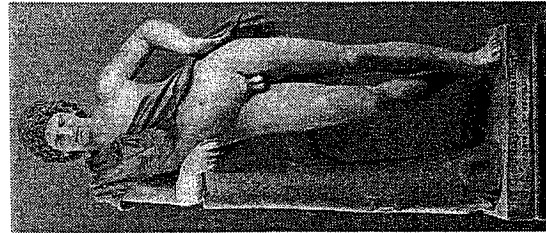
"Residence of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Concord, Massachusetts" ("The Wayside"). Engraving from *Homes of American Authors* (1857).



Piazza Barberini, c. 1856-60. Photograph by Robert Macpherson. Gernsheim Collection, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin.



Archangel Michael. By Guido Reni, Courtesy Santa Maria della Concezione, Rome.



Faun. By Praxiteles. Courtesy Capitoline Museum, Rome.

SPIRITUALISM.
 MISS A. W. SPRAGUE,
 TOWN HALL,
 On Wednesday Eve'g,
 January 30, at 6 o'clock.
 It may be a satisfaction to those who have recently heard the phenomena fully explained, to witness some of the same.
 Jan 21 1858.

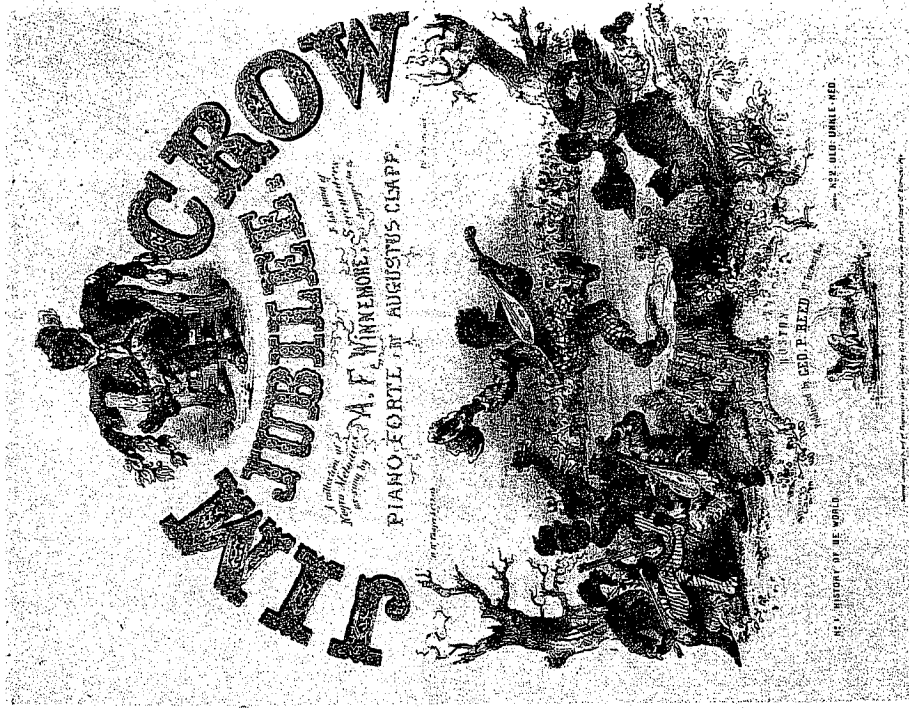
Spiritualism handbill. Courtesy Rokeby Museum, Ferrisburgh, Vt.

1851: Shadrach, fugitive slave, rescued from Boston jail by mob of blacks; Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*, dedicated to Hawthorne.

1852: Democrat Franklin Pierce elected president; Herman Melville, *Pierre*; Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

1853: Crystal Palace Exhibition opens in New York City; Fanny Fern, *Fern Leaves from Fanny's Portfolio*.

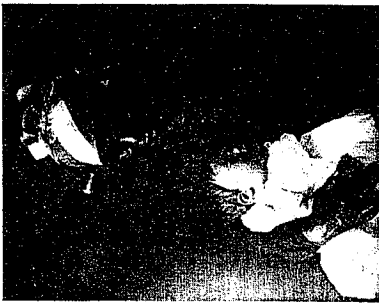
1854: Republican party formed; Kansas-Nebraska Act passed; antislavery mob attacks courthouse in Boston in unsuccessful attempt to rescue fugitive slave Anthony Burns; Henry Thoreau, *Walden*; Maria Susanna Cummins, *The Lamplighter*.



"Jim Crow" sheet music cover, 1847, Granger Collection, New York.

1860: Publishes *The Marble Faun*, produced in England under the title *Transformation* one month before the American edition appears in March; returns to the United States and the Wayside.

1855: Beginning of Bleeding Kansas; Massachusetts desegregates public schools; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Song of Hiawatha*; Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*.



"Georgette H. Thomas and Nurse." Undated daguerreotype. Courtesy Massachusetts Historical Society.

1856: Know-Nothing movement begins; South Carolina representative Preston Brooks assaults Massachusetts senator Charles Sumner in the U.S. Senate; Ralph Waldo Emerson, *English Traits*; Herman Melville, *The Piazza Tales*.

1857: Supreme Court makes Dred Scott decision, denying rights of U.S. citizenship to Africans; financial panic.

1858: First stagecoach line runs from Missouri to Pacific coast; Lincoln-Douglas debates.

1859: John Brown leads raid on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry and is hanged for treason; the last ship to bring slaves to the United States, the *Clothilde*, arrives in Mobile Bay. Alabama; Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*; George Eliot, *Adam Bede*; Charles Darwin, *Origin of Species*.

1860: Abraham Lincoln elected president; South Carolina secedes from the Union; South Carolina militia seizes federal arsenal at Charleston.

1861: Civil War (1861-65) begins with attack on Fort Sumter; Congress passes first income tax law as war finance measure; first battle of Bull Run; telegraph links East and West coasts; Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*; Rebecca Harding Davis, *Life in the Iron Mills*; George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.



"The Branded Hand of Captain Jonathan Walker." Daguerreotype by Southworth and Hawes, c. 1845. Courtesy Massachusetts Historical Society.

1862: Visits Horatio Bridge in Washington, D.C.; meets Abraham Lincoln; publishes "Chiefly about War-Matters" in the *Atlantic Monthly*.

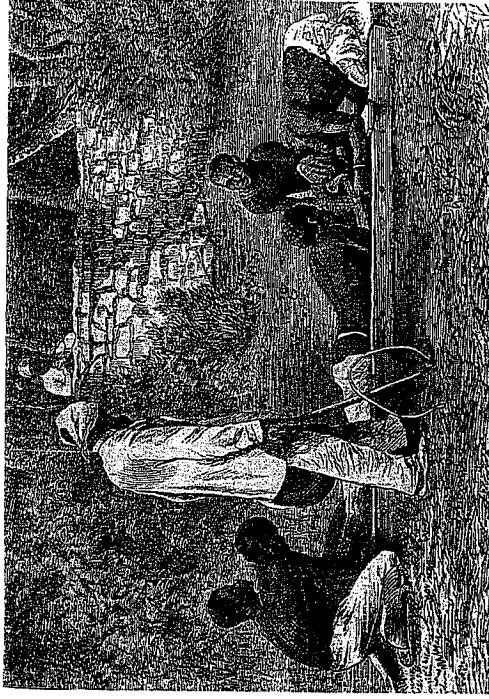
1863: Publishes *Our Old Home*, dedicated to Franklin Pierce.

1864: 19 May, dies in his sleep at Plymouth, New Hampshire; 23 May, buried at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts; four romances remain incomplete at his death: "Dr. Grimshawe's Secret," "Septimius Felton," "The Ancestral Footstep," and "The Dolliver Romance."

1862: Slavery abolished in federal territories; battles of Shiloh, Antietam, and second Bull Run; Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*.

1863: Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation; New York City draft riots; battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Chattanooga; Louisa May Alcott, *Hospital Sketches*.

1864: Sherman's march to the sea; Lincoln reelected.



"Punishing Slaves in Cuba." Photograph by C. D. Fredericks, from Harper's Weekly, 28 Nov. 1868, p. 733.