

Richmond, Va.
June 20, 1908

Mrs. A. P. Aldrich
531 Reynolds St.
Greenwood, S. C.

My dear friend—

It gives me great pleasure to reply to your letter of inquiry regarding our Hawthorne ancestry.

I regret however that my information on the subject is quite limited. The most of what I know was told me by my father, Rev. K. Hawthorne of Alabama who died more than thirty years ago, at the age of eighty-one. He claimed that the Hawthornes of this country are of English origin, that they emigrated directly from England to Virginia and the Carolinas about 1760. My father was born in Robinson County, N. C. in 1779. He had five uncles in the Revolutionary War under General Marion of S. C. Your uncle James Hawthorne told me during a visit to his home about twenty years ago that the same five Hawthornes were his grand-uncles. I have some good reasons for believing the Carolina Hawthornes are descendants of the Hawthornes who came direct from England or from the Mass. Bay Colony which settled at Salem, Mass. about 1634. I had correspondence with the children of Nathaniel Hawthorne the distinguished literary man in regard to a Family Tree, but could give them no satisfactory information as to the date of the coming of our branch of the family to this country. The fact that Nathaniel's father was Captain of a Warship in the service of the American Colonies, and that so many of our ancestors were in the Revolutionary War has led me to suspect that we all belong to the parent stock which settled in Mass. nearly three hundred years ago.

It would give me a very great pleasure to visit you at your Greenwood home. I have been fifty years in the ministry, failing strength has compelled me to retire from the Pastorate. I preach occasionally; I made a tour of lecturing through the South last winter and Spring and returned to my home much improved in health.

I know Rev. Dr. Bagby, the pastor at Greenwood. If he can arrange for me to deliver my new lecture on "Air, Sunshine, and Out-door Living" in his church the early part of October next, it will give me an opportunity of spending a day or two under your hospitable roof.

Very sincerely yours,

J. B. Hawthorne

(Copy of the original letter owned by Dr. Austin, Abbeville, S. C.
Copy made May 27, 1955)