

Life...the thrilling preface to suppremer things

1813 Samuel Fowler Dickinson, Emily's paternal grandfather, builds the Homestead on Main Street in Amherst.

1821 Amherst College opens with Samuel Fowler Dickinson as a principal founder.

1830 Emily Elizabeth Dickinson is born on December 10 at the Homestead to Edward and Emily Norcross Dickinson.

1840 Dickinson moves with her parents, brother Austin, and sister Lavinia to a house on Pleasant Street in Amherst. She attends Amherst Academy until 1847.

1847 In September, Dickinson enters Mount Holyoke Female Seminary (until August 1848).

1852 On February 20, *The Springfield Daily Republican* publishes Dickinson's "Sic transit gloria mundi" anonymously as "A Valentine," the first known publication of a Dickinson poem.

1853 Edward Dickinson elected to a single term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

1853 The railroad comes to Amherst through the efforts of Edward Dickinson.

1855 The Edward Dickinson family moves back to the repurchased and remodeled Homestead.

1856 Austin Dickinson marries Susan Gilbert, girlhood friend of the poet's, and moves into a house built for them next door to the Homestead. The couple names the house "The Evergreens."

1858 Emily and Lavinia visit Washington D.C. and Philadelphia.

1861 Edward (Ned) Austin Dickinson, Emily Dickinson's first nephew, is born at The Evergreens. The Civil War begins.

1862 On April 15, Dickinson initiates a life-long correspondence with Thomas Wentworth Higginson, a writer and social activist.

1862 Dickinson writes the first of three manuscript drafts now known as the "Master Letters" to an as-yet unidentified correspondent.

1864 Five of the Dickinson poems known to have been published in her lifetime appear in newspapers, including the *Drum Beat*, the *Brooklyn Daily Union*, and the *Round Table*.

1864 Dickinson's period of intense reclusion begins.

1865 1864 & 1865 – Dickinson twice spends many months in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for treatment of a severe eye ailment.

1865 The Civil War ends.

1866 Dickinson's dog, Carlo, dies.

1866 Martha Gilbert Dickinson, Emily Dickinson's niece, is born.

1869 Dickinson family hires Margaret Maher as their primary domestic help.

1870 Thomas Wentworth Higginson makes his first visit to Emily Dickinson in Amherst. He called again in 1873.

1874 Edward Dickinson dies.

1875 Thomas Gilbert (Gib) Dickinson, Emily Dickinson's second nephew, is born.

Late 1870s Dickinson's romance with Otis Phillips Lord begins.

1878 Dickinson's poem "Success is counted sweetest" is published in *A Masque of Poets*, a volume of anonymous verse.

1881 Emily Norcross Dickinson suffers a stroke, leaving her partially paralyzed.

1881 Mabel Loomis Todd and David Todd move to Amherst. Mabel Todd later becomes co-editor of first volumes of Dickinson's poetry.

1882 Emily Norcross Dickinson dies.

1882 Otis Lord dies.

1883 Gib Dickinson dies.

1884 On May 15, Emily Dickinson dies.

1886 *Poems by Emily Dickinson*, edited by Mabel Loomis Todd and T.W. Higginson, is published by Roberts Brothers of Boston.

1890