



Transcribe Letters Written by Dickinson's Neighbors

Libraries in Amherst contain many letters written by Dickinson's neighbors and friends, and even some by other members of the Dickinson family that have rarely been read since they were written in the 19th century. EDIS Annual Meeting participants who would like to do so are invited to transcribe letters written by Dickinson's neighbors and, if you wish, to read from your transcriptions on Saturday afternoon as part of the program of readings from Dickinson's letters.

To participate in this project:

Check off on this [LIST](#) the letter you will transcribe, so we won't have multiple people working on the same letter.

And when you are done **Share** your [COMPLETED TRANSCRIPTIONS](#) in this folder.

Scans of [LETTERS FOR TRANSCRIPTION](#) are arranged in chronological order. The file names provide date, the names of the letter writer and recipient, and initials for the archive where this manuscript is held: Amherst College Archives and Special Collections (ACASC), Jones Library Special Collections (JLSC), and University of Massachusetts Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA). Many letters run for more than one page, indicated by the numbers at the end of each file name.

Original manuscripts of letters are available on the A Level of Frost Library in the Amherst College Archives and Special Collections reading room. Open 9AM - 4PM on both Thursday July 25 and Friday July 26.

Original manuscripts of letters are available in the Jones Library Special Collections reading room, 43 Amity Street in Amherst. Open 1PM -5PM on Thursday July 25 and Friday July 26 and 2PM - 4:30PM on Saturday July 27.

Scanned materials include:

- Letters sent by Emily Dickinson's parents and siblings to the poet and to other family members.
- A letter between Emily Dickinson's girlhood friends Abby Wood and Abiah Root
- Letters Emily Fowler Ford sent to both Emily Dickinson and her brother Austin
- A letter and postcard sent from Italy by Dickinson's niece Martha Dickinson Bianchi
- A set of five letters sent by William Austin Dickinson to Martha Gilbert
- A note Susan Gilbert Dickinson sent to Austin Dickinson
- A letter by seven-year-old Helen Fisk, also born in Amherst in 1830. She would grow up to be the poet, novelist, Indian rights advocate, and adult Dickinson correspondent, Helen Hunt Jackson.
- Letters by, to, or between members of the Hitchcock family. Edward Hitchcock was president of Amherst College from 1845-1854, he was a renowned geologist and Dickinson was aware of and influenced by Hitchcock's scientific work and likely attended some of his lectures when she was a student at Amherst Academy. Orra White Hitchcock was an artist and scientist in her own right and produced the luminous illustrations for her husband's publications and lectures, she also served as Headmistress of Amherst Academy during the years Dickinson studied there. Although a little older the Hitchcock children were part of the Dickinson children's social world.
- Letters between members of the Phelps/Huntington family in Hadley. Sisters Charlotte and especially Susan Phelps were friends of Emily Dickinson and their first cousin in Frederic Dan Huntington was a classmate and friend of Austin Dickinson. We believe the Dickinson's dog Carlos was acquired fr
- A long letter by Dickinson neighbor Nancy Kellogg to her sister full of commentary on her spiritual and intellectual life.
- Letters between Amherst College student Sidney Brooks and various family members that describe the town and college life in the 1840s.
- Letters received by Dickinson neighbor Fanny Boltwood
- Letters various Dickinson correspondents, including the poet's beloved Norcross cousins, sent to Mabel Loomis Todd in response to Todd's requests for manuscripts or transcriptions of Dickinson letters and poems as she worked to publish Dickinson's writings.

