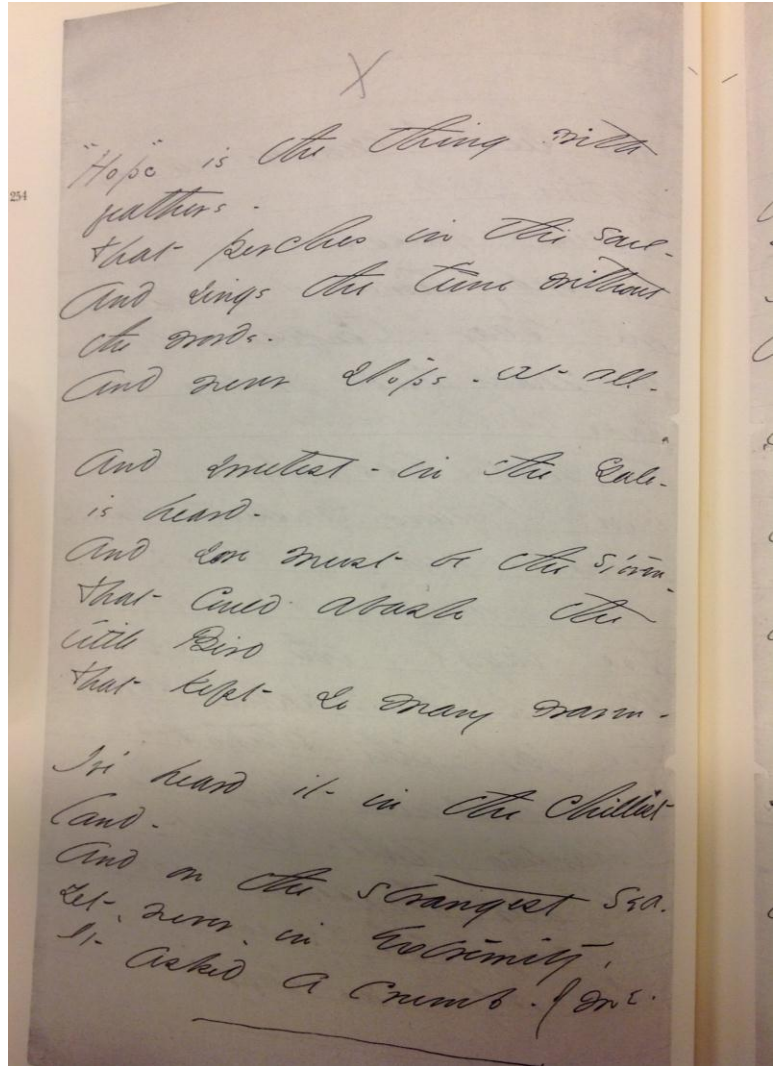


**""Hope' is the thing with feathers -" by Emily Dickinson.
Originally published, 1891.
A critical edition, edited by MaKinzie Reavley.**

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches¹ in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore² must be the storm -
That could abash³ the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity⁴,
It asked a crumb - of me.



Fascicle of ""Hope' is the thing with feathers-"

¹ Something that a bird sits on; usually a tree branch, or a horizontal rod or bar (like in a birdcage)

² Great or severe

³ Cause to feel embarrassed, disconcerted, or ashamed

⁴ The furthest point or limit of something

Biographical Information



Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, MA on December 10, 1830. Her quiet life was infused with a creative energy that produced almost 1800 poems and a profusion of vibrant letters.

Her lively Childhood and Youth were filled with schooling, reading, explorations of nature, religious activities, significant friendships, and several key encounters with poetry. Her most intense Writing Years consumed the decade of her late 20s and early 30s; during that time she composed almost 1100 poems. She made few attempts to publish her work, choosing instead to share them privately with family and friends. Dickinson increasingly withdrew from public life. Her garden, her family, close friends, and health concerns occupied her.

With a few exceptions, her poetry remained virtually unpublished until after she died on May 15, 1886. After her death, her poems and life story were brought to the attention of the wider world through the competing efforts of family members and intimates.

(I adapted this biographical text, as well as obtained the picture, from the Emily Dickinson Museum at emilydickinsonmuseum.org, December 1, 2012)

Bibliography

Source Text: "Hope Is the Thing with Feathers (254)." - Poets.org. Academy of American Poets, 1997. Web. 01 Dec. 2012. <<http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/19729>>. **I have reverted all punctuation back to Emily Dickinson's handwritten version, as represented in the fascicle, as best as I can reproduce it with my word processor.**

Fascicle: Dickinson, Emily, and R. W. Franklin. "Fascicle 13." *The Manuscript Books of Emily Dickinson*. Vol. 1. Cambridge, MA: Belknap of Harvard UP, 1981. 264. Print. **Emily Dickinson's first drafts were written on scraps of paper, and later transcribed onto sheets of folded stationery which she arranged in groups, and sewed together into packets, known as fascicles, which were reproduced in *The Manuscript Books of Emily Dickinson*. (This is explained in parts of the book.)**

Biographical information about Dickinson and picture of her came from "Emily Dickinson's Biography | Emily Dickinson Museum." *Emily Dickinson's Biography | Emily Dickinson Museum*. Trustees of Amherst College, 2009. Web. 01 Dec. 2012. <http://www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org/emilys_biography>.

"The editor, MaKinzie Reavley, is a freshman undergraduate majoring in nursing at East Tennessee State University. MaKinzie is interested in the secrecy and deep thought of Emily Dickinson and her poetry."