

EMILY DICKINSON

a biographical sketch
(1830-86)

Beginnings

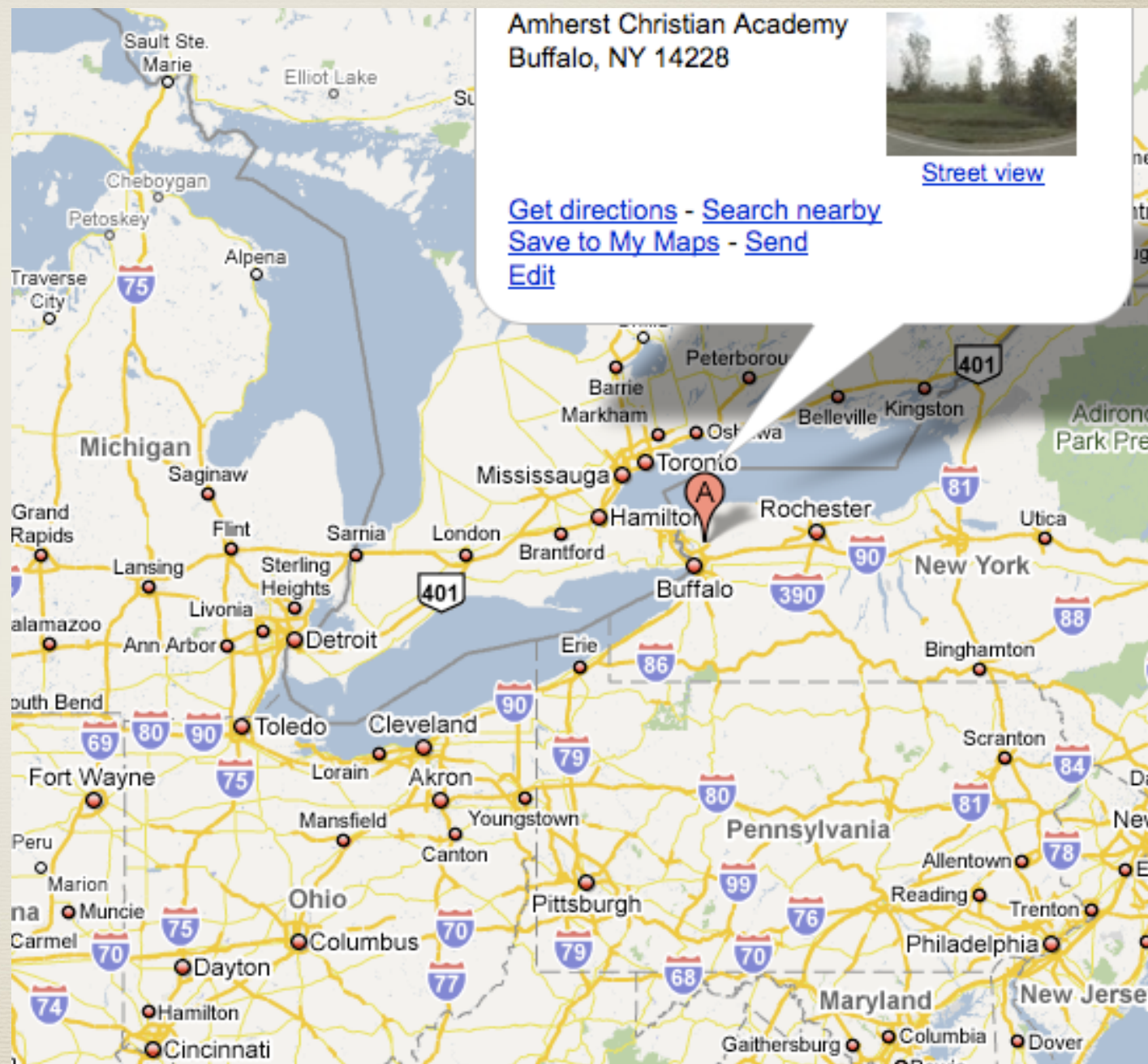
- * the Homestead
- * key family members
 - * father (Edward)
 - * brother (Austin)
- * key friends
 - * Susan (Gilbert) Dickinson
 - * Mabel (Loomis) Todd
- * loves



The Homestead in
Amherst, MA

Education

- * Amherst Academy (1840-46)
- * Mount Holyoke Female Seminary (1846-47)
- * self-cloistered back home: a life of reading
- * classics
- * American contemporaries
- * British contemporaries
- * favorite authors



Amherst Academy

Themes & Topics

- * the outside world
 - * science
 - * contemporary events
- * the interior life
 - * loss & death
 - * love
 - * nature
 - * the spiritual



Emily Dickinson

Poetic Innovation

NURSERY RHYME

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown
And Jill came tumbling after.

E.D.'s POEM #519 [441]

This is my letter to the World
That never wrote to Me -
The simple News that Nature told -
With tender Majesty

Her message is committed
To Hands I cannot see -
For love of her - Sweet - countrymen -
Judge tenderly - of Me

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- * E.D. employs **dashes, off/slant rhymes**
- * E.D. uses **enjambment** to complicate meanings

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