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## KATHY ASHBY

### Emily Dickinson

after studious seclusion she spoke  
 her conversation cultivated, not to boast  
 complained too often people said, "What?"  
 gave up trying to talk and thus sent notes

and wrote and wrote and wrote  
 poems—created with log-cabin efficiency  
 level line timbers hewn longhand, solid roof shape safe from bear or beast  
 wandering deer shy coming upon symmetry

raccoon return for back-door give-away feast  
 embers of humanity emanating from hearth  
 and home, surrounded by sparkles of wild flowers  
 tangled vines, dark underbrush all rooted in good black earth

life thoughts simplicity, death thoughts morbidity  
 long hours of lingering mystery, accepting they'd been there  
 they'll be there for eternity