

Records for WS

Section A Distribution

- Strat Stratford Record (including marriage licence issued in Worcester). Section A below.
 Lon London Record (including references in records of playing companies). Sections B & C.
 PR Publication Record (title pages & Stationers' Register). Section E.
 LA Literary Allusion (mainly printed, some handwritten). Sections C & D

	Strat / Lon	PR / LA		
1564	Strat		<p>The lost years of Childhood, Education, and Youth</p> <p>After his baptism in 1564, there is no record of William Shakspere until the issue of a marriage licence in Worcester in 1582.</p>	
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1570				
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79				
1580				
81				
82	Strat			Marriage licence
83	Strat			Named as father of Susanna
84				
85	Strat		2 Feb. Named as father of Hamnet & Judeth	
86			<p>The lost years of early manhood</p> <p>William Shakspere is mentioned only once – in a legal document as heir to a disputed portion of land. This record does not say where he was or what he was doing.</p>	
87				
88	(Lon)			
89				
1590				
91				

	Strat / Lon	PR / LA	
1592		(LA)	The cryptic allusion in <i>Groatsworth</i> might refer to William Shakespeare, or it might not
93		PR	Named in dedication of <i>Venus & Adonis</i>
94		PR	Named in dedication of <i>Lucrece</i>
95	Lon	LA	
96	Strat Lon		Named in Stratford as the father of Hamnet, deceased. Bound over in London to keep the peace (Langley writ).
97	Strat		
98	Strat Lon	PR LA	
99	Lon	PR LA	Eight records only: Cited as author on four title pages; mentioned twice as tax defaulter; twice elsewhere.
1600		PR	
01			
02	Strat	PR	
03	Lon	PR	
04	Lon	PR LA	<p>The lost London years of middle-age.</p> <p>Only the briefest allusion suggests that Shakespeare may have been in London between 1604 and 1612.</p>
05	Strat Lon	PR	
06			
07		LA	
08	Strat (Lon)	PR	
09	Strat	PR	
1610	Strat		
11			
12	Lon		
13	Lon		
14	Strat	LA	
15	Lon	LA	
1616	Strat Lon		No elegies on his death.

The following list mentions documents which cite the name William Shakepere (and variants) between 1564 and 1616. The list does not include allusions to the works. In total there are about 80 manuscript references, 18 allusions in print, and about 46 attributions on printed works.

Section B Stratford records

Robert Bearman (*SSR*) states that there are 30 or 31 documents in Stratford which refer by name to William Shakespeare up until his burial. Further documents which may also refer to Shakespeare are reported by Chambers (*WS*). The total might number as many as 36.

The following items may be checked against the entries at www.shakespearedocumented.org/.

<i>WS</i>	Chambers. E.K. 1930. <i>William Shakespeare: A Study of Facts and Problems</i> . 2 vols
<i>PRO</i>	Thomas, David. 1964. <i>Shakespeare in the Public Records</i> . Document Numbers.
<i>SSR</i>	Bearman, Robert. 1994. <i>Shakespeare in the Stratford Records</i> .
<i>TNA</i>	The National Archives, Kew, London.

1564	Baptism ‘Gulielmus filius Johannes Shaksperē’ Holy Trinity Church, Stratford (<i>SSR</i> 1a)
1582	Licence for Marriage for ‘W ^m Shaxpere’ to Annā Whateley; Surety for Marriage for ‘Willm Shagspere’ to Anne Hathwey; Bishop of Worcester’s Register (<i>WS</i> ii. 41)
1583	Baptism of ‘Susanna daughter to William Shaksperē’ (<i>SSR</i> 1b)
1585	Baptism of Hamnet & Judeth ‘sonne & daughter to William Shaksperē’ (<i>SSR</i> 1c)
1596	Burial of ‘Hamnet filius William Shaksperē’. Holy Trinity Church, Stratford (<i>SSR</i> 1d)
1597	Purchase by Willielmum Shakespeare of New Place for £60 from William Underhill (<i>SSR</i> 2)
1598	Stratford Corporation Payment for stone to ‘M ^r Shaxpere’ [? father /relation] (<i>SSR</i> 31)
1598	Letter from Abraham Sturley to Richard Quiney about ‘Mr. Shaksperē’ (<i>SSR</i> 3)
1598	Stratforde Burrowghe, noate of corn and malt: ‘Wm. Shackespere. x [10] quaerts’ (<i>SSR</i> 4)
1598	Letter to ‘Wm. Shackespere’ from Richard Quiney requesting loan of £30 (<i>SSR</i> 5)
1598	Letter from Adrian Quiney to his son, Richard Quiney about ‘M ^r Sha’ (<i>SSR</i> 6)
1598	Letter from Abraham Sturley to Richard Quiney about our countriman ‘M ^r Wm Shak’ (<i>SSR</i> 7).
1601	Will of Thomas Whittington mentions Anne Shaxspere, ‘wyf unto Mr. Wylyyam Shaxspere’ (<i>WS</i> ii. 42)
1602	conveyance of 107 acres of arable land and 20 acres of pasture to ‘William Shakespeare’ from William and John Combe (<i>SSR</i> 8).
1602	counterpart of document of conveyance of 107 acres of arable land (<i>SSR</i> 9)
1602	Transfer of cottage in Chapel Lane, Stratford from Walter Getley to Shackespere (<i>SSR</i> 10)
1604	Survey of Rowington Manor confirms ‘William Shakespeare lykewise holdeth there one cottage’ (<i>WS</i> ii. 112)
1604	Stratford Court of Record: ‘Willielmus Shexpere’ sued the apothecary Philip Rogers (<i>SSR</i> 11)
1605	Assignment of an interest in a lease of Tithelands to ‘William Shakespear’ from Ralph Hubaude (<i>SSR</i> 12)
1605	Ralph Hubaud’s Bond of £80 with ‘Willielmo Shakespear’ (<i>SSR</i> 13)

- 1605 Draft of assignment of an interest in a lease of 'Tithe Lands from Ralph Hubaude (*SSR* 14)
- 1606 Inventory of Ralph Hubaud's property records owing by 'Mr. Shakspre' *xxli* (*Calendar of Worcester Wills*)
- 1606 Survey of Rowington shows 'Willielmus Shakespere tenet . . . domum mansionalem' (*WS* ii. 112)
- 1608-9 Court of Record for Stratford record that 'Willielmus Shackspere' (mentioned eighteen times in seven records) sued John Addenbrooke for £6 plus costs (*SSR* 15-21)
- 1609 Conveyance of a Property adjoining a house (assumed to be the Birthplace) owned by 'Willm Shake-spere' in Henley Street (*SSR* 22)
- 1611 'Willia Shackespere' added to list of 71 named Contributors to a Highways Bill (*SSR* 23)
- 1611 Draft Bill of Complaint confirms lease of the tithes of Stratford by William Shackspeare (*SSR* 24)
- 1611 Inventory of goods of Robert Johnson states he held a barn of 'Mr Shaxper'. (*WS* ii. 32)
- 1612 Survey of Stratford Corporation records Shakespeare as tithe tenant (*SSR* 25)
- 1613 Conveyance of property in Henley Street, next to a property of Willm Shakespere (*SSR* 26).
- 1614 Thomas Greene notes M^r Shakspeare among Freeholders in Oldstratford and Welcombe (*SSR* 27)
- 1614 Welcombe Enclosure: covenant between William Shackespeare and William Replingham (*SSR* 28)
- 1614 Thomas Greene refers in his notes to 'my Cosen Shakspeare' (*SSR* 29)
- 1614 Grant for entertaining a 'precher at the newe place' (family name is not mentioned *WS* ii. 153)
- 1603-1616 Endorsement on lease of a barn beside Mr William Shaxpeare's property (*SSR* 30)
- 1616 Burial of 'Will. Shakspeare, Gent' (*SSR* 1e)
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Section C Official London Records

Document Numbers follow D. Thomas, *Shakespeare in the Public Records* (1964). Thomas lists 28 documents which mention Shakespeare. Of these, two do not mention him by name and four date from after his death. Two more mentions have been discovered since then. There are a few other public documents in London which mention William Shakspere in his lifetime, about 25 in total. The PRO became part of The National Archives in 2003.

- 1588-9 Court of King's Bench: mentioned in Bill of Complaint about Estate at Wilmeccote: (*PRO* 1)
- 1595 Treasurer of the Queen's Chamber paid £20 to Kempe, 'Will Shakespeare' and Burbage as members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men (*PRO* 2)
- 1596 Court of King's Bench: 'William Shakespeare' bound over in in Writ of Attachment made by Francis Langley (*PRO* 3)
- 1597 Purchase of New Place by 'Willielmus Shakespeare' from Thomas Underhill (*PRO* 9)
- 1597 'William Shackspere' listed among tax defaulters in St. Helen's Parish, Bishopsgate (*PRO* 4)
- 1598 'Willelmus Shakespeare' listed as tax defaulter in St. Helen's Parish, Bishopsgate (*PRO* 5)
- 1599 'Willelmus Shakespeare' listed as tax defaulter in Bishopsgate (*PRO* 6)
- 1599 Shakespeare listed as tax defaulter in St. Helen's Parish, Bishopsgate (*PRO* 7)
- 1599 Thomas Brend's post-mortem inventory mentions 'Shakespeare' at the Globe (*PRO* 10)
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- 1600 ‘Willelmus Shakspeare’ in Lord Treasurer’s Remembrancer as tax defaulter (*PRO* 8)
- 1600 Stationers’ Register: ‘Henry iiiij . . . written by Mr Shakespere’ (*WS* i. 377).
- 1600 York Herald’s compilation of arms granted by Garter King of Arms with the arms of ‘Shakespeare the player’ (College of Arms, Dethick’s Grants X, fols. 1r)
- 1602 Confirmation that ‘Willielmum Shakespeare’ purchased New Place in 1597 (*PRO* 14)
- 1602 York Herald mentions ‘Shakespear y^e Player by Garter’ in a complaint about issuing of arms by Garter King of Arms (*WS* ii. 22)
- 1603 Warrants under the signet and privy seals for letters patent authorising King’s Men (TNA, PSO, 2/22).
- 1603 Warrant for Letters Patent: ‘Wilielmum Shakespeare’ was listed as one of King’s Men (*PRO* 15)
- 1603 Letters Patent: ‘Wilielmum Shakespeare’ listed as one of King’s Men (*PRO* 16)
- 1604 Master of the Great Wardrobe grants red cloth to ‘William Shakespeare’ and others (*PRO* 17)
- 1604 Survey of Rowington lists ‘William Shakespere’ as property holder (*PRO* 18)
- 1604-5 Revels’ Accounts mentions ‘Shaxberd’ four times as the author in connection with performance of plays (*PRO* 21)
- 1605 Augustine Phillips bequeaths 30s. ‘to my ffellowe william Shakespeare’ (*WS* ii. 73)
- 1606 Exchequer, Land Revenue lists Shakespeare as property holder in Stratford (*PRO* 19)
- 1607 Stationers’ Register: ‘Master William Shakespeare his historye of Kynge Lear’ (*WS* i. 463)
- 1608 Stationers’ Register: ‘A Yorkshire Tragedy by Wylliam Shakespere’ (*WS* i. 535)
- 1609 Stationers’ Register: ‘a booke called Shakespeares sonnettes’ (*WS* i. 556)
- 1610 Confirmation of land purchase by ‘Shakespere’ from William and John Combe in 1602 (*PRO* 24)
- 1611-2 Revels’ Accounts mentions two plays of Shakespeare but not him by name (*PRO* 22)
- 1612 Belott-Mountjoy Case: Shakespeare is mentioned 18 times in 25 documents (*PRO* 25)
- 1613 Payment for an Impresa to Mr. Shakespeare (*WS* ii. 153)
- 1613 Purchase of Blackfriars Gatehouse for £140; mortgaged to Henry Walker (*PRO* 26)
- 1613 Bequest of five pounds by John Combe to M^r William Shackspere (*WS* ii. 127)
- 1615 King’s Bench. Shakespeare mentioned as Sharer in Globe in *Ostler v Heminges* (*PRO* 11)
- 1615 Mentioned in Bill of Complaint by Sir Thomas Bendish regarding Blackfriars (*PRO* 27)
- 1616 Last will and testament of William Shackspere (*PRO* 28)
- 1617 Court Roll of Rowington confirms transfer of property to Susanna and John Hall (*PRO* 20)
- 1619-20 Court of Requests. Shakespeare mentioned 16 times as a sharer in case *Witter v. Heminges and Condell* (seven documents, *PRO* 12)
- 1632 Court of Requests. Cuthbert Burbage mentions Shakespeare as sharer in the Globe (*WS* ii. 67)
- 1635 Lord Chamberlain’s Department. Cuthbert Burbage mentions Shakespeare as among those who set up the Globe and the Blackfriars Theatres. (*PRO* 13)

Section D: Unofficial, manuscript references to Shakespeare

In addition to the six unofficial references listed in the Stratford section, there are less than ten documents with unofficial, hand-written references to Shakespeare in his lifetime

- 1598-1603 Northumberland Manuscript contains unsigned scribbles, mentioning Shakespeare on various occasions (*WS* ii 196-7). Dates are uncertain
- 1598-1601 Gabriel Harvey in a manuscript note in a copy of Speght's translation of *Chaucer* (1598) mentions Shakespeare (*WS* ii. 196)
- 1599-1601 *The Returne from Parnassus* I and II mentions Shakspeare nine times (*WS* ii. 199-201)
- 1599-1616 'W. Shakespear' mentioned in an anonymous manuscript note in *The Pinner of Wakefield*, attributed to Robert Greene (*WS* ii. 201)
- 1601 Francis Davison's note in *Catalog of the Poems contayned in Englands Helicon* (*WS* i. 372)
- 1602 John Manningham in his diary reports an anecdote about Burbage and Shakespeare (*WS* ii. 212).
- 1613-35 Leonard Digges in a manuscript note in a copy of Lope de Vega's *Rimas* mentions Shakespeare (*Shakespeare Survey* 16, 1963)
- 1614 William Drummond mentions Shakespeare (from notes published in 1711, *WS* ii. 220)
- 1615 F. B. [Francis Beaumont] in a poem to Ben Jonson mentions Shakespeare (*WS* ii. 222)
- 1618-21 Edmund Bolton lists Shakespeare in his manuscript for *Hypercritica* (*WS* ii. 225)
- 1616-33 William Basse's poem on the death of Wm Shakespeare (*WS* ii. 226)
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Section E: Printed References to Shakespeare

There are about 18 references to Shakespeare in print until the end of 1616

- 1592 Robert Greene's *Groatsworth of Wit* mentions a 'Shake-scene' (*WS* ii. 188)
- 1593 H. B. in *Willobie His Avisa* refers to Shakespeare (*WS* ii. 191)
- 1595 Thomas Covell in *Polimanteia* refers to 'sweet Shak-speare' (*WS* ii. 193)
- 1598 Richard Barnfield in *A Remembrance of Some English Poets* mentions Shakespeare (*WS* ii. 195)
- 1598 Francis Meres in *Palladis Tamia* mentions Shakespeare among others (*WS* ii. 193-195)
- 1599 John Weever dedicates one epigram (out of 160) to 'Honie-tong'd Shakespeare' (*WS* ii. 199)
- 1600 John Bodenham mentions Shakespeare once in his Epistle to *Bel-vedere or The Garden of the Muses* (*WS* ii, 211).
- 1600-4 An. Sc. (Anthony Scoloker?) in *Daiphantus, or the Passions of Love* refers to 'friendly Shakespeare's tragedies' (*WS* ii 214)
- 1603 In *A Mourneful Dittie, entituled Elizabeths Losse*, Shakespeare is listed with Johnson and Greene (*WS* ii.212)
- 1604-1625 I. C.[? John Cooke] in *Epigrammes* lists Shakespeare with Johnson and Greene (*WS* ii. 212)
- 1605 William Camden (1551-1623) in *Remaines of a greater Worke concerning Britaine* mentions Shakespeare (*WS* ii. 215)
- 1607 William Barksted in *Myrrha* mentions Shakespeare (*WS* ii. 216)
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- 1612 John Webster in his *Epistle to The White Devil* mentions Shakespeare among others (WS ii. 218)
- 1614 Richard Carew on the *Excellencie of the English Tongue* mentions Shakespeare (WS ii. 219)
- 1614 Thomas Freeman in *Runne and a Great Cost* writes a sonnet to Shakespeare (WS ii. 220)
- 1615 Edmund Howes in his continuation of Stow's *Annals* mentions Shakespeare (WS ii. 221)
- 1615 Thomas Porter in his book of epigrams mentions Shakespeare (WS ii. 222)
- 1616 In *The workes of Benjamin Ionson*, Shakespeare is mentioned on lists of actors for the first performances of *Every Man in his Humour* and for *Sejanus* (WS ii. 71)
- 1620 John Taylor in *The Praise of Hemp-seed* mentions Shakespeare (WS ii.226)
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Publications attributed to Shakespeare

There were about 46 publications attributed to Shakespeare by the end of 1616, either in quarto (Q) or in octavo (O). Twelve works are attributed to Shakespeare on their earliest known printing. Some works, e.g. *Richard II*, were published anonymously at first. Other works are thought to use Shakespeare as a pseudonym, e.g. *The Passionate Pilgrim*. A few unattributed works have by some been assigned to Shakespeare, e.g. *Troublesome Raigne of King John*. (1591); *The Taming of a Shrew* (1594)

- 1593 **Q1** *Venus*
- 1594 **Q2** *Venus*; **O1** *Lucrece*
- 1596 **O3** *Venus*
- 1598 **O2** *Lucrece*; **Q1** *Love's Labour's Lost*; **Q2** *1 Henry IV*; **Q2, Q3** *Richard II*, **Q2** *Richard III*
- 1599 **O4** *Venus*; **O1** *Passionate Pilgrim*; **Q3** *1 Henry IV*
- 1600 **O3** *Lucrece*; **Q1** *2 Henry IV*; **Q1** *MN Dream*; **Q1** *Merchant of Venice*; **Q** *Much Ado*; *Oldcastle*
- 1601 'The Phoenix and the Turtle' attributed to 'William Shake-speare' in Robert Chester's *Loves martyr: or, Rosalins complaint*
- 1602 **O5** *Venus*; **Q1** *Merry Wives of Windsor*; **Q3** *Richard III*
- 1603 **Q1** *Hamlet*
- 1604 **Q2** *Hamlet*; **Q4** *1 Henry IV*
- 1605 **Q4** *Richard III*
- 1607 **O6** *Venus*; **O4** *Lucrece*
- 1608 **O7** *Venus*; **Q1** *King Lear*; **Q4** *Richard II*; **Q5** *1 Henry IV*; **Q1** *A Yorkshire Tragedy*
- 1609 **Q** *Sonnets*; **Q1**, *Troilus*; **Q1, Q2** *Pericles*
- 1610 **O8** *Venus*
- 1611 **Q3** *Hamlet*; **Q3** *Pericles*; **Q2** *Troublesome Raigne*,
- 1612 **O2** *Passionate Pilgrim*; **Q5** *Richard III*
- 1613 **Q6** *1 Henry IV*
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1615	Q5 <i>Richard II</i>
1616	O5 <i>Lucrece</i>
1617	O9 <i>Venus</i>
1619	Pavier Quartos (10 plays, falsely dated 1608): Q3 <i>Contention</i> , Q3 <i>True Tragedie</i> , Q4 <i>Pericles</i> , Q2 <i>A Yorkshire Tragedy</i> , Q2 <i>Merchant</i> , Q2 <i>Merry Wives</i> , Q2 <i>Lear</i> , Q3 <i>Henry V</i> , Q2 <i>Oldcastle</i> Q2 <i>MND</i>
1620	O10 <i>Venus</i>
1622	Q1 <i>Othello</i> , Q6 <i>Richard III</i> , Q7 <i>1 Henry IV</i> , Q3 <i>Troublesome Raigne</i> , Q4 <i>Hamlet</i> ? Q4 <i>Romeo</i> ?
1623	First Folio (36 plays)

Some Recent Biographies of WS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>
1998	Honan, Park	<i>Shakespeare: A Life</i>	OUP
1999	Holden, Anthony	<i>William Shakespeare</i>	Little Brown
2001	Duncan-Jones, Katherine	<i>Ungentle Shakespeare</i>	A&C Black (Arden)
2002	Wells, Stanley	<i>Shakespeare for all Time</i>	Macmillan
2002	Bevington, David	<i>Shakespeare</i>	Blackwell
2003	Wood, Michael	<i>In Search of Shakespeare</i>	BBC
2004	Greenblatt, Stephen	<i>Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare</i>	J. Cape
2004	Duncan-Jones, Katherine	<i>Shakespeare's Life and World</i>	Folio
2004	Wilson, Richard	<i>Secret Shakespeare</i>	Manchester UP
2004	Holland, Peter	'William Shakespeare: Life and Times'	ODNB
2005	Ackroyd, Peter	<i>Shakespeare: The Biography</i>	Anchor
2005	Shapiro, James	<i>1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare</i>	Faber & Faber
2006	Wells, Stanley	<i>Shakespeare & Co.</i>	Vintage
2007	Weis, René	<i>Shakespeare Revealed</i>	John Murray
2007	Bryson, Bill	<i>Shakespeare: The World as a Stage,</i>	HarperCollins
2007	Nicholl, Charles	<i>The Lodger: Shakespeare on Silver Street.</i>	Allen Lane
2008	Bate, Jonathan	<i>The Soul of the Age,</i>	Viking
2011	Holderness, Graham	<i>Nine Lives of Shakespeare</i>	Continuum
2011	Duncan-Jones, Katherine	<i>Shakespeare: Upstart Crow</i>	A&C Black (Arden)
2012	Potter, Lois	<i>The Life of William Shakespeare</i>	Wiley-Blackwell
2015	Shapiro, James	<i>1606: William Shakespeare and the Year of Lear</i>	Faber & Faber

John Shakspere in public records (c. 1530 – 1601)

Modern reports of these records are mainly accessible in Schonebaum. They can be checked against E.K. Chambers *William Shakespeare: a Study of Facts and Problems* and the online website ‘Shakespeare Documented’. Lewis records some documents omitted by Schonebaum.

SDL	Schoenbaum, <i>William Shakespeare, A Documentary Life</i> (1975) Document numbers	
Lewis	<i>The Shakespeare Documents, Facsimiles, Transliterations, Translations & Commentary</i> . By B. Roland Lewis. Stanford. 2 vols. (1940)	
<i>SQ</i>	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i> (journal)	
1552	fined xij ^d (with Humphrey Reynold and Adrian Quiney) for making a <i>sterquinarium</i> (refuse heap) in Henley Street.	<i>SDL 15</i>
1556	11 Aug. ‘Johannem Shakyspere de Stretforde’ identified as a glover in a case against him by Thomas Siche for £8.	<i>SDL 27-8</i>
1556	bought leases to two houses (one in Greenhill Street, one in Henley St)	<i>SDL 15</i>
1556	sued Henry Field for non-delivery of 18 measures of barley	<i>Lewis 17</i>
1556	elected ale-taster of the Borough of Stratford	<i>SDL 29</i>
1557	fined for missing sittings of Court of Record	<i>SDL 29</i>
1558	sworn as one of four constables	<i>SDL 29</i>
1559	appointed affeeror (to assess fines)	<i>SDL 30</i>
1560 ?	becomes burgess	<i>SDL 30</i>
1561	described as <i>agricola</i> (farmer or husbandman)	<i>SDL 27</i>
1561-6	Chamberlain to Stratford Guild	<i>SDL 30</i>
1562	fined for neglecting his hedges in Snitterfield	<i>SDL 27</i>
1563	gave to Alexander Webbe his lease to a property in Snitterfield	<i>SDL 27</i>
1565	elected Alderman	<i>SDL 34</i>
1566	John stood surety for Richard Hathaway	<i>SDL 66</i>
1568	John Shaksper became Bailiff of Stratford [equivalent to Mayor]	<i>SDL 34</i>
1570	became Chief Alderman	<i>SDL 34-5</i>
1570	accused in the Exchequer Court of Usury for lending money at 20% and 25% Interest:	<i>SQ, 35</i> (1984, 315-8)
1570	Application for Coat of Arms is rejected.	<i>SDL 36</i>
1572	entry to court of Common Pleas for a debt of £50 owed by John Luther	<i>SDL 29</i>
1573	entry to court of Common Pleas for a debt of £30 owed to Henry Higford	<i>SDL 29</i>
1573	described as a ‘whyttawer’	<i>SDL 27</i>
1575	Fine levied on purchase of two houses in Henley Street for £40	<i>SDL 29</i>

1576-8	misses council meetings; listed as tax-defaulter	<i>SDL 36</i>
1578	Note of fine levied when an estate at Aston Cantlowe was mortgaged by John and Mary Shakespere to Edmund Lambert.	<i>SDL 37</i>
1578	Mortgaged his estate at Wilmcote to Thomas Webbe	<i>SDL 37</i>
1579	Note of fine levied when an interest in an estate at Snitterfield sold by John and Mary Shakespere to Robert Webbe (£4)	<i>SDL 37</i>
1580	identified as yeoman when fined £20 for not appearing in Court of Queen's Bench and loses £20 surety for a hatmaker, John Audley, of Nottingham	<i>SDL 37</i>
1580	misses a court date about disputed land, which Edmund Lambert retains	<i>SDL 37</i>
1582	(or before) let a house in Stratford to William Burbage	<i>SDL 29</i>
1582	petitioned for sureties of the peace against: Ralph Cawdrey, William Russell, Thomas Logginge, and Robert Young	<i>SDL 38</i>
1586	Johannes Shakspere a 'glover' stood £10 bail for Michael Price, a local tinker (later forfeited)	<i>SDL 27</i>
1586	John Shaxpere released from the Board of Aldermen	<i>SDL 36</i>
1588	Bill of Complaint against Edmund Lambert	<i>Lewis 55</i>
1588-92	sued by William Burbage	<i>SDL 29</i>
1589	Tries to recover property from Lambert family in Court of King's Bench	<i>SDL 37</i>
1590	Johannes Shackspere owned leasehold of two houses on Henley Street	<i>Lewis 67</i>
1591	sued by Adrian Quiney, Humphrey Plumley and Richard Hill	<i>Lewis 68</i>
1592	noted as not attending church; 'for feare of processe of Debtte' and fined; described as a 'senior' and 'glover'	<i>SDL 38</i>
1592	assessed Henry Field's estate	<i>SDL 29</i>
1596	application for a Coat-of-Arms accepted.	<i>SDL 166-171</i>
1597	sells a toft (small strip of land) to a neighbour in Henley Street	<i>SDL 15</i>
1597	tries to recover property from Lambert family in Chancery	<i>SDL 37</i>
1598	sells another toft to a different neighbour	<i>SDL 15</i>
1599	entry to court of Common Pleas for a debt of £21 owed by John Walford from land sale in 1568	<i>SDL 27</i>
1599	reinstated on the Town Council	
1601	Sept 8; burial of 'Mr Johannies Shakspeare'	<i>SDL 49</i>

N.B. Glyndwr Parry and Cathryn Enis in *Shakespeare Before Shakespeare* (OUP, 2020)

The authors give an account of newly discovered documents concerning John (but not William). These include various writs against John and some debts to the Crown, e.g one for £132. His property remained at risk of seizure by the Crown, hampering his business activities, apparently until 1583.

John Shakspere's family in parish records, 1558-1601

The entries are taken from E..K Chambers *William Shakespeare* (1930, ii. 1-18). John is likely to have married Mary Arden in the mid 1550s, before the Register begins. It is assumed that an elder daughter Jone (bap. 1558) died before another Jone was baptised in 1569; similarly an elder daughter Anna (bap. 1571) is assumed to have died before another Anna was baptised in 1579.

The initials C, B and M refer to Christenings, Burials and Marriages, which were kept as separate lists

1558	Sept 15	C	Jone Shakspere daughter to John Shakspere
1562	Dec 2	C	Margareta filia Johnanis Shakspere
1563	Apr 30	B	Margareta filia Johnanis Shakspere
1564	Apr 26	C	Gulielmus filius Johannes Shakspere
1566	Oct 13	C	Gilbertus filius Johannis Shakspere
1569	April 15	C	Jone the daughter of John Shakspere
1571	Sept 28	C	Anna filia magistri Shakspere
1574	Mar 11	C	Richard sonne to Mr John Shakespeer
1579	Apr 4	C	Anne daughter to Mr John Shakespere
1580	May 3	C	Edmund sonne to Mr John Shakspere
1583	May 26	C	Susanna daughter to William Shakspere
1585	Feb 2	C	Hamnet & Judeth sonne and daughter to William Shakspere
1589	Feb 26	C	Thomas sonne to Richard Queeny
1596	Aug 11	B	Hamnet filius William Shakespere
1601	Sept 8	B	Mr Johannies Shakspeare
1607	June 5	M	John Hall gentleman & Susanna Shaxspere
1608	Feb 21	C	Elizabeth dawghter to John Hall gentleman
1608	Sept 9	B	Mayry Shaxspere, wydowe
1612	Feb 3	B	Gilbert Shakspere adolescens
1613	Feb 4	B	Rich Shakspeare
1616	Feb 10	M	Tho Queeney tow Judeth Shakspere
1616	Apr 25	B	Will Shakspere gent
1617	May 8	B	Shakspere fillius Thoomas Queeney
1623	Aug 8	B	Mrs Shakspeare Anna uxor Richardi James
1626	Apr 22	M	Mr Thomas Nash to Mrs Elizabeth Hall
1635	Nov 26	B	Johannes Hall, medicus peritissiums
1649	July 16	B	Mrs Susanna Hall, widow
1662	Feb 9	B	Judith vxor Thomas Quiney gent

The family name is spelt 'Shakspere' on thirteen occasions out of nineteen up to 1616.

The family name is never spelt 'Shakespeare' or 'Shake-speare' in the Stratford records.

A Note on the Parish Register

The Parish Register for the Holy Trinity Church at Stratford-upon-Avon begins in 1558 and is neatly written in the same hand until 1600. After this point, the entries are made in different hands. It is likely that Vicar Richard Byfield prepared the Register from an assortment of papers kept in the parish chest. After the Act of Supremacy (1534) established the Church of England, Thomas Cromwell, Lord Privy Seal to Henry VIII and Vicar General to the King, required all parishes to register baptisms of children (and their father's name), marriages and burials. These events were religious, so there was no record of the actual birth-date, death-date. The mother's name was not usually recorded. Entries were to be made after service on Sundays, in the presence of a churchwarden. The register was to be kept in a 'sure coffer', the parish chest which had two locks, one key with the vicar, and one with the wardens. These earliest registers were generally kept on paper, sometimes just loose sheets.

This order was not properly enforced. On 25 October 1597 the provincial constitution of Canterbury issued an ecclesiastical mandate, approved by the Queen and Privy Council in 1598. This order required each parish to maintain its register in a parchment book, and that all names from the earlier registers should be copied into the more durable format, from the beginning 'but especially since the first year of her Majesty's reign'. A third lock was to be added, with each warden having the key to his own lock. Thus many parish registers in the country begin in 1558 as was the case with the parish register at Holy Trinity

In addition, copies of entries known as Bishop's Transcripts were supposed to be made within a month of Easter (from 1603, within a month of Lady Day, 25 March) and sent to the diocesan office. However, Transcripts for the Holy Trinity Church do not seem to have survived in the archive at Worcester Cathedral. This directive was occasioned by the impact of demographic growth and serious food shortages in the 1590s, which led to poverty and vagabondage. A Statute was passed in 1598 which dealt with parish relief covering alms-seekers, hospitals and almshouses. The directive concerning parish registers thus helped to limit each parish's responsibilities to its own parishioners.

Other useful publications include:

Ingleby, C.M., John Munro, E.K. Chambers. *The Shakspeare Allusion Book: A Collection of Allusions to Shakspeare from 1591-1700*. OUP, 1931. 2 vols

Minutes and Accounts of the Corporation of Stratford-upon-Avon and Other Records, 1553-1620, 10 volumes.

Dugdale Society, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1921-present.

Loomis, Catherine, ed. *William Shakespeare: A Documentary Volume*, Dictionary of Literary Biography vol. 263. Detroit, 2002

Schoenbaum, Samuel. *William Shakespeare: Records and Images*. Scolar Press, London, 1981

Thomas, David & Jane Cox. *Shakespeare in the Public Records* (1985)

Forthcoming: Roger Stritmatter & Alexander Waugh *The New Shakespeare Allusion Book*. 2 vols.

Errata ?

These records were compiled from many sources by Kevin Gilvary.

If you notice any mistakes or omissions, please contact the editor: president@deveresociety.co.uk

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