

## William Shakespeare

- 1564 April 26: baptism recorded, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Birth date subsequently assigned: April 23.
- 1582 Marries Anne Hathaway. Marriage license, November 27.
- 1583 Susanna Shakespeare baptized, May 26.
- 1585 Hamnet and Judith Shakespeare born, February 2.
- 1585-92 “The Lost Years.” 1588-89: Shakespeare vs. Lambert, a law suit before the Queen’s Bench, Westminster.
- 1589?-91 Playwriting begins. [See “Shakespeare’s Dramatic Achievement”].
- 1590s Some sonnets composed; others in late 1590s-early 1600s.
- 1592 Robert Greene, London playwright, criticizes “an upstart crow.”
- 1593 *Venus and Adonis*, earliest work printed. Theaters closed by plague.
- 1594 *The Rape of Lucrece* printed. **The Lord Chamberlain’s Men** established under the patronage of Henry Carey, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Hunsdon.
- 1595 William Shakespeare listed as shareholder of Lord Chamberlain’s Company.
- 1596 Coat-of-arms application to College of Heraldry for John Shakespeare.
- 1597 Bought New Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest house (a bit run-down) in Stratford-on-Avon.
- 1598 Francis Meres compares Shakespeare to Homer, Ovid, Plautus, and Seneca in *Palladis Tamia, Wit’s Treasury*.
- 1599 *The Passionate Pilgrim* printed, attributed to Shakespeare.
- 1601 “The Phoenix and the Turtle,” ascribed to Shakespeare, printed in a miscellany of poems by others.
- 1603 **The King’s Men** established by Letters Patent of King James I/VI.
- 1603-1610 Plague closed theaters: May 1603-April 1604; May-Sept. 1604; Oct.-Dec. 1605; July 1606-Feb. 1610 (brief openings April and July 1608).
- 1609 *Sonnets* printed, including “A Lover’s Complaint.”
- 1613 Purchased Gatehouse, near to Blackfriars Theater, London, in March.
- 1616 April 23, died in Stratford-on-Avon.