

TIMELINE 1584-1623 SHAKESPEARE AND NEVILLE

This time line starts after Henry Neville's return from four years travelling round Europe with his tutor, Henry Savile. They returned in 1582. In 1583 Neville, aged 21, travelled to Scotland from August to October with Walsingham and the young Earl of Essex. Neville became a J.P. and Elizabeth I sent Ambrose, the Earl of Warwick, brother of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, down to Mayfield to discipline Neville on his export of ordnance (James & Rubinstein, 2004, 90). William Shakspere was in Stratford, having married in 1582 (aged 18) and baptised his daughter Susanna in 1583. (Where a play title is listed I am suggesting the earliest date of writing: if it is a publication date I write "published/printed".)

Date	1584	1585	1586	1587	1588
Shakspere, the actor from Stratford		2 nd Feb: The twins, Hamnet and Judith, baptised in Stratford.			'Willielmo Shackespere' in a legal action over land.
Shakespeare, the writer					
Other works, possibly by the bard	<i>Mucedorus</i> (L/C references)	* <i>Look About You</i> ¹ (L/C references)	<i>Arden of Faversham</i> (L/C reference)	<i>Lochrine</i> co-written with George Peele?	<i>Edmund Ironside</i>
Events	<i>Leicester's Commonwealth</i> (L/C) published.		Trial of Mary Queen of Scots. Philip Sidney dies.	Execution of Mary Queen of Scots.	The Spanish Armada defeated.
Neville's life and family.	Neville becomes an M.P.; marries Anne Killigrew; meets Henry Wriothesley (at some time 1583-85); his father (with Ralph Sadler) has custody of Mary Queen of Scots.	Neville copies L/C in Worsley MSS 47. Sir Edmund Neville, denounced William Parry who was executed. Edmund was imprisoned in the Tower for 13 years.	Henry Neville 4 th Baron of Abergavenny (Neville's uncle) is one of the peers who try Mary Queen of Scots.	Holinshed's <i>Chronicles</i> published: Neville's father-in-law, Henry Killigrew, is one of the editors.	Neville becomes MP for Sussex. Charles Neville, 6 th Earl of Westmoreland, is one of the leaders of an invasion force at the time of the Spanish Armada.

¹ Plays including a character named Falconbridge (a Neville family name) are marked with *.

1589	1590	1591	1592	1593	1594
			Willelmus Shackspere in London: loans John Clayton £ 7 (see 1600).		Performs before the Queen at Greenwich on December 28 th .
* <i>The Troublesome Raigne of John King of England</i> : possibly co-written with George Peele.	<i>Henry VI</i> part 2 (<i>The First Part of the Contention</i>) * <i>Henry VI</i> part 3 performed.	* <i>Henry VI</i> part 1	<i>Edward III</i> ; <i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> , <i>Richard III</i> . * <i>Henry VI</i> part 1 performed.	<i>Venus and Adonis</i> published (registered in April) by William Shakespeare FIRST USE OF THIS NAME.	<i>Rape of Lucrece</i> published as by William Shakespeare; <i>Henry VI</i> part 2 and <i>Titus Andronicus</i> co-written with Peele published anonymously. <i>Comedy of Errors</i> performed at Gray's Inn, December 28 th .
		<i>The Phaeton Sonnet</i> ; * <i>Troublesome Raigne of John</i> published anonymously.	<i>Arden of Faversham</i> published anonymously. <i>Thomas of Woodstock</i>		<i>Taming of A Shrew</i> published anonymously. Theatres reopen.
		In <i>The Troublesome Raigne</i> Falconbridge refers to Phaeton; Shakespeare refers to Phaeton in the 1590s.	Greene's attack on 'Shake-scene' (actually by Chettle). Plague closes the theatres until 1594.	Marlowe killed. <i>Guy Earl of Warwick</i> by B. J. lampoons 'Sparrow' from Stratford upon Avon.	First mention by another author of Shake-speare, in <i>Willoby His Avis</i> referring to <i>Lucrece</i> .
Neville becomes MP for Sussex.		Henry Killigrew attends Earl of Essex in France.		Neville's father dies. Neville MP for New Windsor.	

1595	1596	1597	1598	1599	1600
First written record of 'Willm Shakespeare' as an actor, the only recorded payment to him as such .	Hamnet dies. Applies for coat of arms. W. Wayte accuses Shakspeare of threatening him.	Buys New Place in Stratford for £ 60. Listed as tax defaulter in Bishopsgate, London.	Hoarding grain in a famine. Quiney's letter requesting a loan (never posted). Paid for load of stone.	Willelmm Shakespeare shareholder of the Globe Theatre. Shakspeare owes tax.	William Shackspere goes to court for a debt of £7 (Clayton, 1592) and is referred to as a tax defaulter.
<i>The True Tragedy of Richard Duke of York</i> (* <i>Henry VI</i> part 3) published anonymously. * <i>Love's Labours Lost</i> written 1594-5?	<i>The Raigne of King Edward III</i> published anonymously. * <i>King John</i> * <i>Merchant of Venice</i>	<i>Richard II, Richard III</i> and <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> published anonymously.	<i>Richard III</i> Q2 and <i>Richard II</i> published as by William Shakespeare; * <i>Love's Labours Lost</i> as by W. Shakespere: FIRST PLAYS TO BE IDENTIFIED AS BY SHAKESPEARE. <i>Henry IV</i> part 1 published anonymously.	<i>Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, Julius Caesar.</i> Thomas Platter records a performance of <i>Julius Caesar</i> in September.	* <i>Merchant of Venice, Henry V, Henry IV</i> Part 2, <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> and <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> published. <i>Twelfth Night</i> tells of Count Orsino.
<i>Lochrine</i> published as by W. S.			<i>Mucedorus</i> published anonymously.		* <i>Look About You</i> published anonymously.
	The Northumberland Manuscript, owned by Neville, lists <i>Richard II</i> and <i>III</i> , quotes from <i>Lucrece</i> and names William Shakespeare.		Barnfield praises Shakespeare's poetry in his <i>Poems in Diverse Humours</i> . Francis Meres lists Shakespeare's plays in <i>Palladis Tamia</i> .	Globe theatre opens. Weever's epigramme 22 addressed to 'Honey-Tongued Shakespeare'. John Shakespeare's coat of arms granted.	Neville's secretary Winwood tells him Orsino is coming to London in a letter dated 20 th November.
	Neville made Deputy Lieutenant, Berkshire.	Neville becomes MP for Liskeard.	Neville sells his iron works.	Neville ambassador in France. His son dies.	Neville returns to England in August.

1601	1602	1603	1604	1605	1606
His father dies. Thomas Whittington records in his will that Shakespeare owes him 40 shillings. Is listed as a tenant of the Globe.	Pays £ 320 for land and buys a cottage. The grant of a coat of arms to John Shakespeare is challenged.	Is named as an actor in James I's royal patent creating the King's Men and in Jonson's play <i>Sejanus</i> cast list.	Rents Lodgings with Mountjoys in Silver Street; listed as a player in accounts for the coronation procession; sues apothecary and sells malt in Stratford.	Invests £ 440 in Stratford parish tithes; Augustine Phillips, actor, leaves him 30s in gold in his will to his "fellow William Shakespeare".	
<i>Hamlet</i> <i>The Phoenix and the Turtle</i> published in <i>Loves Martyr</i> as by William Shakespeare.	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i> , <i>Othello</i> (- 1604). <i>Merry Wives</i> registered 18 th January; <i>Hamlet</i> registered 26 th July.	<i>Measure for Measure</i> . <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> registered. <i>Hamlet</i> published. <i>Sir Thomas More</i> : Hand D	<i>Alls Well That Ends Well</i> ; <i>Measure for Measure</i> performed at court December 26 th .	<i>Timon of Athens</i> , <i>King Lear</i> .	<i>Macbeth</i> , <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> . <i>King Lear</i> performed 26 th December.
				<i>A Yorkshire Tragedy</i>	
The Earl of Essex's unsuccessful rebellion: he is tried and executed. Earl of Southampton imprisoned.		Elizabeth I dies. James I comes to the throne. Southampton dedicates a defence of Richard III to Neville: he refers to "playes".	Southampton, Neville and Lord Danvers arrested on rumours of a plot on 24 th June but released next day.	Gunpowder plot.	
Neville tried and imprisoned in the Tower.	Edward Neville born: was Anne the mother of an illegitimate son? Did Neville have reason to be jealous? Another son dies.	Neville and Southampton released in April. Southampton stages * <i>Love's Labours Lost</i> for Queen Anne.	Neville elected M.P. and -1606, serves on committee concerned with illegitimate children ² .	Neville awarded M.A at Oxford. James I is present. They hear <i>Tres Sibyllae</i> by M. Gwynne which refers to Macbeth.	First London Virginia Company founded: Neville and Southampton are members of the council.

² In both *King Lear* and *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, both of which fall into this period, the legitimacy of children is an important issue.

1607	1608	1609	1610	1611	1612
His brother, Edmund Shakespeare, “a player” buried 31 st December at St. Mary Overy, Southwark.	Mother dies; owes £ 20 and is owed £6; Blackfriars theatre sharer; godfather to a Stratford mercers son.	Continues litigation for the debt of £ 6 against John Addenbroke.	Buys 20 acres of land near Stratford.	Acts to protect his real estate interests against default. Pays to improve Stratford roads.	Testifies in Belott vs Mountjoy and signs a deposition as “William Shackp”: his first signature.
<i>Coriolanus, Pericles</i>	<i>King Lear</i> published. <i>Pericles and Antony and Cleopatra</i> registered.	The Sonnets, <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> and <i>Pericles</i> published. <i>Cymbeline</i>	<i>A Winter’s Tale</i>	<i>The Tempest</i>	<i>Cardenio/Double Falshood</i> and <i>Henry VIII</i> co-written with Fletcher.
	<i>Yorkshire Tragedy</i> registered as by “Wylliam Shakespere”; quarto states it was written by “W. Shakspeare”.			Fletcher writes <i>The Tamer Tamed</i> : the only sequel to a Shakespeare play (<i>The Taming of The Shrew</i>).	“ <i>Cardenno</i> ” performed at court during Christmas.
Susanna Shaxspere marries physician John Hall.		Second London Virginia Company (SLVC) given royal charter: Southampton and Neville investors.	Strachey letter (SLVC) was a source for <i>The Tempest</i> . Beaumont & Fletcher write <i>A King and No King</i> (see 1619).	Ben Jonson’s epigram addressed to Neville. John Davies calls Shakespeare “a companion for a king”.	Beaumont retired in 1612-13 to Kent.
In Parliament Neville speaks of the union of Scotland + England, and mentions RIII.	James I visits Neville whilst having problems with his own writing.	“Henry Nevil poet” is encoded in the dedication to the Shakespeare sonnets.	Neville had access to the Strachey letter. June: marriages of 2 daughters.	Neville is a possible candidate to become Secretary of State.	In <i>Henry VIII</i> ³ there is a masque: Sir Edward Neville was disguised in the real event.

³ Overbury and Rochester codename Neville ‘Similis’ because he looked like Henry VIII (Somerset, 1997, 90), as did Sir Edward Neville, his grandfather. Neville lived at Wolsey’s mansion in Mayfield from 1589. The masque in *Henry VIII* is in at Wolsey’s house.

1613	1614	1615	1616	7 years gap	1623
Buys Blackfriars gatehouse and signs deed/mortgage ⁴ . Earl of Rutland pays for an impresa.	As a landowner seeks to enclose pastures in Welcombe.	John Combe, moneylender, leaves Shakspeare £ 5. Legal cases about the gatehouse + theatres.	William Shakspeare signs his will 3 times ⁵ and dies, is buried on April 25 th .		
<i>Two Noble Kinsmen</i> based on Chaucer's <i>Knight's Tale</i> co-written with Fletcher.				1622 <i>Othello</i> published.	First Folio printed: 36 plays, 18 of which had never been published before.
<i>Cardenio</i> performed again on June 8 th 1613 for Ambassador of Savoy.			<i>The Famous History of George Lord Fauconbridge</i> published (anon):	1619 <i>Two Noble Kinsmen</i> performed at court.	One of the compilers of the First Folio was Ben Jonson.
June 29 th the Globe burned down during <i>Henry VIII</i> . Overbury imprisoned in the Tower and dies.		Edmund Howes lists Willi Shakespeare as a poet in Stow's <i>Annales</i> .	this Fauconbridge is illegitimate, son of Richard Lionheart, and brought up by the Queen of the fairies.	1619: <i>A King and No King</i> (Beaumont and Fletcher) printed with dedicatory epistle to Sir Henry Neville.	Ben Jonson is living at Gresham College, which was founded by Neville's great uncle.
Neville was related to Chaucer. He knew Overbury and <i>Two Noble Kinsmen</i> reflects on his plight. Neville travels to the Netherlands.	Sir William Herbert supported Neville in Parliament (cousin of Neville's chief backer in Privy Council, William Herbert 3 rd Earl of Pembroke).	Neville reported to have died on July 10 th .	Falconbridge was a Neville family name used repeatedly by Shakespeare, beginning with <i>Look About You</i> : see 1585.		First Folio dedicated to William Herbert 3 rd Earl of Pembroke.

⁴ The two signatures on the Blackfriars deed and mortgage are: "William Shaksper" and "Wm Shakspea".

⁵ The three signatures on the will are: "William Shakspeare", "Willm. Shakspeare" and "By me William Shakespeare": the last may be by a different hand.

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