

Evidence of Shakespeare's life etc



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The following is evidence of Shakespeare's life etc, and that he was the writer of the plays in the First Folio.

Baptismal record

26th April 1564 Shakespeare was baptised.

Marrige record

27th November 1582, marriage licence record.

28th November 1582, marriage licence bond.

Property records

Mortgage deed shows Shakespeare was one of several "tenants" of The Globe.

Shakespeare owned property and land.

Legal and tax records

Shakespeare took some people to court and also appeared in court to give evidence.

Tax records show that Shakespeare seemed to be trying to avoid paying tax.

Heraldic records

John Shakespeare, Shakespeare's father applied for a coat of arms and after it was granted there was a dispute.

Council records

Council records show that John Shakespeare, Shakespeare's was appointed as an Alderman, a Baliff, and was struck off.

Theatre and acting records

Licences and cast lists credit William Shakespeare as an actor.

Letters

Shakespeare is mentioned in several letters and one letter which we have a record of was undelivered to Shakespeare.

Signature

Shakespeare's signatures that we have a record of are unsatisfactory as evidence, partly because the spelling is not the same.

Other evidence

Other evidence includes a bill of sale, and Shakespeare being listed as having illegally

hoarded malt or corn.

Death

25th April 1616 the burial of "Will Shakspeare gent" was recorded in the Stratford parish register

Last Will and Testament

On 25th March 1616, just weeks before his death Shakespeare made his last Will and Testament.

After death

Ben Jonson's poem in the preface of The First folio of 1623 To the Memory of My Beloved 1638 Sir William Davenant's poem In Remembrance of Master William Shakespeare

Heminges and Condell preface in The First Folio of 1623.

Shakespeare's fellow actors Heminges and Condell explain in the introduction to the readers that the Folio was replacing the earlier publications, which they characterised as "stol'n and surreptitious copies, maimed and deformed by frauds and stealths of injurious impostors", asserting that the author's true words "are now offer'd to your view cured, and perfect of their limbes; and all the rest, absolute in their numbers as he conceived them".

Heminge and Condell dedicated the First Folio to the Earls of Pembroke and Montgomery "to show their gratitude to the living, and the dead", declaring that the venture was "without ambition either of self-profit, or fame: only to keep the memory of so worthy a Friend & Fellow alive, as was our Shakespeare...".

Conclusion

Beyond reasonable doubt Shakespeare wrote all the work that is attributed to him.

For details of records see baptismal record, marriage record, etc on shakespearecandle.com
