

Property records relating to Shakespeare



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4th May 1597, Shakspeare bought New Place, paying a £60 fine which "may well seem absurdly low; but in fines of this period the consideration mentioned is customarily a legal fiction. We do not know how much Shakespeare actually laid out".

The house was the second largest in Stratford.

The property included two barns, two gardens, and two orchards

(Shakespeare Birthplace Trust MS., item 1, case 8, in New Place Museum, Nash House; Public Record Office, Court of Common Pleas, CP. 24(1)/15; C.P. 25(2)/237).

21st February 1599. A tripartite lease for the Globe Theater consisted of an agreement between Sir Nicholas Brend (grounds owner), the Burbage brothers, and five members of the Lord Chamberlain's company, which included Shakspere. It was described by John Heminges and Henry Condell in their testimony during the 1619 Court of Requests action *Witter v. Heminges and Condell*.

7th October 1601, mortgage deed of trust by Nicholas Brend to John Bodley, John Collet, and Matthew Browne, in which Bodley was given control of the Globe playhouse, the Globe is described as being tenanted by "Richard Burbadge and Willm Shakspeare gent".

10th October 1601 deed of trust by Nicholas Brend to John Bodley, legally tightening up the control of Bodley of the Globe, again the theatre is described as being tenanted by "Richard Burbage and William Shakspeare gentlemen".

1608, deed of sale of John Collet's interest to John Bodley, the Globe is once more described as being tenanted by "Richard Burbadge and Willm Shakspeare, gent".

May 1615, Thomasina Ostler's court plea has a list of shareholders for the Globe Theater and Blackfriars property which includes Shakspere's name (@ McMichael 17).

1st May 1602 for £320, Shakspere bought 107 acres of land and 20 acres of pasture in Old Stratford from William and John Combe.

(Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office, MS. ER 27/1.)

19th September 1602, Shakspere acquired a quarter-acre of land with "Chapel Lane Cottage" and a garden.BR> (Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office, MS. ER 28/1.)

24th October 1604, a land survey of Rowington manor reported that "William Shakspeare Lykewise holdeth there one cottage and one garden by estimation a quarter of one acre and payeth rent yearly ijs vjd".BR> (Public Record Office, Exchequer, Special Commission, E. 178/4661.)

24th July 1605, Shakspere purchased from Ralph Hubaud "a half-interest in a lease of 'Tythes of Corne grayne blade & heye' in three nearby hamlets ... along with the small tithes of the whole of Stratford parish, with certain exceptions honouring former rights". (Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office, MS. ER 27/2; Misc. Doc. II, 3m and @ Schoenbaum 192-3).

1610, a Court of Common Pleas fine served to confirm Shakspere's title to 107 acres of land and 20 acres of pasture purchased in 1602 from William Combe. (Public Record Office, Feet of Fines, C.P. 25(2)/365; C.P. 24(2)/7.)

10th March 1613 Henry Walker's Blackfriars Gate-house was bought by Shakspere, William Johnson, John Jackson, and John Hemming for £140. The deal involved "elaborate arrangements, calling for trustees and a mortgage [whose] practical effect would be to deprive Shakespeare's widow of her dower right to a third share for life in this part of the estate; for in a joint tenancy, Chancery would not recognize Anne's privilege unless her husband had survived the other trustees" (@ Schoenbaum 223).

20th October, 1614, Shakspere made a covenant with Mainwaring's attorney William Replingham (Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office, MS. ER 27/3), which "undertook to compensate William Shackespeare or his heirs or assigns 'for all such losse detriment & hinderance' with respect to the annual value of his tithes, 'by reason of anie Inclosure or decaye of Tyllage there ment and intended by the said William Replingham'" (@ Schoenbaum 231).
