

## (1) Period 1550-1574

Time	Event	Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford	William Shakespeare of Stratford
1550		April 22 (or 12): Born at Castle Hedingham, County of Essex, of John de Vere, 16 <sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and Margaret Golding. (1)	
1551			John Shakespeare fined for having a dunghill in front of his house in Stratford-on-Avon.
1553	Death of the young King Edward VI and coronation of Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary)		
1554	Mary I marries Prince Philip, son of Charles V.	Birth of his sister Mary.	
1556	In January Philip becomes King of Spain		John Shakespeare buys two houses in Henley Street, Stratford-on-Avon.
1557			John Shakespeare marries Mary Arden of Wilmcote.
1558	November: death of Queen Mary I, ascension of Elizabeth I.		
1559	Coronation of Elizabeth I.  Peace of Cateau-Cambrésis between France and Spain and France and England (England had entered the war in 1556 as Spain's ally)  The son of the King of Sweden visits England.	John de Vere, 16 <sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, officiates as Lord Great Chamberlain of England at Elizabeth I's coronation. (2)  Edward de Vere matriculates at Queen's College, Cambridge.	
1561	Elizabeth I visits Castle Hedingham for four days.		John Shakespeare elected chamberlain of the borough.

1562		<p>The 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford dies in September. Edward de Vere, 12 years old, is now the 17<sup>th</sup> Earl. Not being of age, he becomes the Queen's ward for the next 9 years. As the Queen's ward, he is placed in the household of Sir William Cecil, Secretary of State (from 1571 on Lord Burghley and from 1572 on Lord High Treasurer of England.)</p> <p>Shortly afterwards his mother marries Charles Tyrrell.</p>	
1563		<p>His title is challenged by Lord Edward Windsor, husband of his elder half-sister Katherine.</p>	
1564		<p>May: His uncle Arthur Golding dedicates his translation of <i>The histories of Trogus Pompeius</i> to him.</p> <p>August: Receives degree from Cambridge University.</p>	<p>William is baptized on April 26 at Stratford. (3)</p>
1566		<p>Receives degree of Master of Arts from Oxford.</p>	<p>His brother Gilbert is baptized.</p>
1567	<p>Mary I of Scotland (Mary Stuart) is deposed as Queen of Scotland and imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle. She escapes soon afterwards and flees to England where she is kept prisoner.</p>	<p>His uncle Arthur Golding publishes his translation of Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i>, a translation with immense influence on Shakespeare's works.</p> <p>July 23: Thomas Brincknell, an undercook in William Cecil's household, is killed by Oxford. The precise circumstances are not known. Though, according to the coroner's report, Brincknell committed <i>felo de se</i> ("felony upon himself", the term for suicide). Brincknell, being drunk, is supposed to have run into Oxford's rapier (a long thin sword with two sharp edges).</p>	

1568			John Shakespeare appointed bailiff.
1569	Northern Rebellion: An unsuccessful attempt by northern noblemen under the command of the Earls of Westmorland and Northumberland to depose Queen Elizabeth and put Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland, on the throne.	Thomas Underdowne dedicates his translation of the <i>Aethiopian History</i> (Heliodorus' romance, also known as <i>Theagenes and Chariclea</i> ) to him. This romance influenced Sir Philip Sidney's <i>Arcadia</i> and Shakespeare's <i>Cymbeline</i> .	April: Baptism of his sister Jean.
1570	Pope Pius V issues his bull "Regnans in Excelsis" excommunicating Queen Elizabeth and dispensing her subjects from allegiance to her.	Correspondence with Dr. John Dee, mathematician and astrologer.	
1571	Sir William Cecil is created Baron Burghley.  Ridolfi Plot (apparently initiated by the Florentine banker Ridolfi), another attempt to replace Elizabeth by Mary Stuart and in which Thomas Howard, 4 <sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk, was involved.	Is victor in a tournament at Westminster.  December: marries Anne Cecil, Lord Burghley's daughter, aged 15 (the usual marriage age of aristocratic daughters; in <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Juliet is 14).	John Shakespeare is appointed chief alderman.  Baptism of his sister Ann.
1572	Duke of Norfolk is sentenced to death in January and executed in June.  July 13, William Cecil, now Lord Burghley, becomes Lord Treasurer of England.	March 1572: Sir Thomas Smith, soon to succeed Burghley as Secretary of State, on diplomatic mission in France, writes from Blois to Thomas Wilson, author of a book on rhetoric: "I thank you for your news of the chancellorship of the order [of the Garter], yet I know not what it is, and I am afraid my lord of Oxford spake rather as he would have it to be than he knew it to be so given." (4)  Bartholomew Clerke translates Castiglione's <i>Il Cortegiano</i> ( <i>Book of the Courtier</i> ) from Italian into Latin to which Edward de Vere writes a preface in Latin. (It had been translated into English by Sir Thomas Hoby in 1561)	John Shakespeare's financial situation begins to deteriorate.

	August 24: Massacre of Saint Bartholomew's Day in Paris. Slaughter of the Protestants (Huguenots).	August: Takes leading part in royal entertainment at Warwick Castle.	
1573	<p>October: Birth of Henry Wriothesley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Southampton, generally recognized as the Youth in Shakespeare's Sonnets.</p> <p>Siege of Haarlem and Alkmaar in the Low Countries. The unsuccessful siege of Alkmaar with its heavy death toll marks a turning point in the Spanish strategy. Instead of assailing fortified towns, the new Spanish tactic will be to encircle and starve them out.</p>	<p>Arthur Golding dedicates to him his translation of <i>Calvin's version of the Psalms of David</i>.</p> <p>Thomas Twynne dedicates to him his <i>Breviary of Britain</i>.</p> <p>Thomas Bedingfield translates <i>Cardanus Comfort</i>, dedicated to and with a preface by Edward de Vere.</p> <p>Publication of a <i>Hundreth Sundry Flowers</i>, a collection of poems and short novels, in which Edward de Vere is likely to have a hand.</p>	John Shakespeare is sued for £30; a warrant is issued for his arrest.
1574	<p>May 30: death of King Charles IX of France at the age of 24; succeeded by his brother Henri III, who returns from Poland where he had been elected king in 1573.</p>	<p>March: Accompanies Queen Elizabeth on visit to the Archbishop of Canterbury.</p> <p>June-July: Escapes to the Low Countries, without permission and is brought back by Thomas Bedingfield.</p>	March: Baptism of his brother Richard.

- (1) In 1582 Pope Gregory proclaimed the replacement of the Julian calendar by the new Gregorian calendar.
- (2) Lord Great Chamberlain of England. In 1558 this was mainly a ceremonial function. At the coronation of the king, the Lord Great Chamberlain of England had to dress the new king and to serve the monarch water before and after the banquet. At the coronation of Anne Boleyn in 1533 John de Vere, 15th Earl of Oxford, officiated as Lord Great Chamberlain. The Earls of Oxford held the office by (presumed, but accepted) right of inheritance.
- (3) Only dates of baptism and burial were recorded in those times, not dates of birth and death.
- (4) Sir Thomas Smith, also a professor of Greek at Cambridge, had been tutor of the young Edward de Vere (probably then aged 6-8). However, in this case Lord Oxford had spoken "as he knew it to be given": Smith was appointed chancellor of the Order of the Garter. Sir Thomas' Smith's remark indicates that Edward de Vere had a tendency to enrich reality with his own imagination.