

(6) Period 1595-1599

Time	Event	Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford	William Shakespeare of Stratford
1595	Henri IV of France officially declares war on Spain.	<p>January: His daughter Elizabeth is married to William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby.</p> <p>April 24: Letter to his brother-in-law Robert Cecil on his daughter. (1)</p> <p>October 5: King Henry IV of France thanks Oxford for some unspecified services. (2)</p> <p>October 20: Letter to Robert Cecil concerning his claim to the stewardship of the forest of Waltham. In a postscriptum he expresses his displeasure about the Earl of Essex. (3)</p>	
1596	<p>January 27: Sir Francis Drake dies of dysentery in Portobelo, Panama.</p> <p>June 30 – July 15: Expedition to the Azores under the command of Lord Charles Howard of Effingham, Lord High Admiral, and Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex.</p> <p>The Spanish port of Cadiz is captured and sacked. Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton, the youth of the <i>Sonnets</i>, takes part in it. (4)</p>	Moves to King's Place, Hackney (today part of London).	
1597	<p>March 11: Spanish troops capture Amiens, capital of Picardy.</p>	The 2 nd Earl of Pembroke and the Countess of Pembroke (Mary Sidney) seek the hand of Oxford's second daughter Bridget for their eldest son William (considered by some scholars as the youth of Shakespeare's <i>Sonnets</i>). Oxford gives his consent.	<p>May: Buys a house in Stratford.</p> <p>November 15: The tax collectors cannot find him at his address in Saint Helen's.</p>
1598	April 13:	October:	One Mr Shaxspere is paid 10d (ten pence) for a load of stone.

	<p>Henry IV issues the Edict of Nantes granting considerable rights to the Huguenots and so promoting tolerance in religious affairs.</p>	<p>Publication of Francis Meres' <i>Palladis Tamia</i>, containing a comparative discourse between ancient and Italian poets, on the one hand, and English poets, on the other. Oxford is named first as "the best for comedy". However, Meres has but taken this over from Puttenham's <i>The Art of English Poesie</i> (see under 1589).</p>	
	<p>May 2: Peace of Vervins, end of the war between France and Spain.</p>		<p>January 24: In a letter of Abraham Sturley to Richard Quiney is stated that "our countryman Mr Shaksper, is willing to disburse some money upon some odd yard-land or other at Shottery."</p>
	<p>Summer: Rebellion in Ireland, led by Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone.</p>		<p>February 4: In a period of dearth he receives the visit of inspectors on suspicion of having hoarded grain.</p>
	<p>August 4: Death of William Cecil, Lord Burghley.</p>		<p>Fall: Role in Ben Jonson's <i>Every Man in His Humour</i>.</p>
	<p>September 7: Francis Meres' <i>Palladis Tamia</i> is entered in the Stationers' Register.</p>		<p>October 1: A renewed attempt of the tax collectors to find him at the address in Saint Helen's fails.</p>
	<p>September 22: Ben Jonson kills Gabriel Spencer, an actor of the Lord Admiral's Men.</p>		<p>October 25: Letter from Richard Quiney to Mr. Shackspeare, asking him to lend £30. The letter bears no address and was probably intended for delivery by Quiney himself at the place where Shakespeare resided. It was later found among Richard Quiney's own papers.</p>

<p>1599</p>	<p>January 14: The Earl of Essex appointed commander-in-chief of the army sent to Ireland. The Earl of Southampton is appointed general of the horse.</p> <p>April: Essex arrives in Ireland.</p> <p>June 1: John Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury, orders the burning of books, among them all the works of Thomas Nashe and Gabriel Harvey, all other satires, Marlowe's <i>Ovid's Elegies</i> (translation of <i>Amores</i>).</p> <p>Summer: Rumours of an imminent Spanish invasion, which ultimately prove unfounded.</p> <p>In Ireland the Earl of Essex is unsuccessful.</p>	<p>From 1594-1599 only two companies were authorized permanently to play in London. Since early in 1599 a third company with a constant London venue exists, The Earl of Oxford's Men. Actors are the former Chamberlain's Men: Will Kempe, Christopher Beeston, John Duke.</p> <p>Christmas Day: At the eve of a performance of the Chamberlain's Men at Court, Robert Armin, the company's jester, visits the Earl of Oxford at Hackney.</p>	<p>February: Becomes a shareholder in the Globe.</p> <p>October 6: A third attempt of the tax collectors to find him at the address in Saint Helen's fails.</p>
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	<p>November: Essex' monopoly of sweet wines is not renewed; his financial situation deteriorates.</p>		

(1) “whereas I have dealt with the Earl of Derby, about my daughter’s allowance, and that he hath promised me to assure her to that intent a thousand pound a year, for so much as I now understand upon some discontentment that he hath not attained to that honor which it seems he did at this time expect, he determines tomorrow to depart into Lancashire, and that he hath neither in his house, or for herself, set down any stay, whereby either in her own lodging, or if she shall follow her attendance upon her Majesty, she is provided as his wife.” What the honor Derby expected was is not known.

(2) “Lord Great Chamberlain, I am having this note brought to you by Loménie [Antoine de Loménie, on special embassy in England] whom I send before the Queen my good sister [kings/queens of allied countries addressed each other as “brother/sister” and the nobility as “cousins”]... in order to inform you of the satisfaction I feel for the good offices you have performed on my behalf in her presence.” What these good offices in the presence of the queen might have been is a puzzling question. From his letters it appears that Oxford was not in good health and rather loathed going to court, at which he was still not in favour. In 1596 Thomas Nashe, speaking of him without naming him explicitly in *Have With You to Saffron Walden*, wishes him “no better fortune than the forelocks of Fortune he had hold of in his youth, & no higher fame than he hath purchased himself by his pen; being the first (in our language) I have encountered, that repurified Poetry from Art’s pedantism”.

(3) “He [Lord Burghley] seems to doubt yet of his death, & wishes me to make means to the Earl of Essex that he would forbear to deal for it. A thing I cannot do in honor, since I have already received divers injuries and wrongs from him, which bar me of all such base courses. “Then follows a bitter remark on the queen’s reluctance to grant him the stewardship of the forest of Waltham. “If her Majestie’s affections be forfeits of men’s estates we must endure it. “

(4) See Peter Moore, “The Rival Poet of Shakespeare’s Sonnets”, in *The Lame Storyteller, Poor and Despised*, Buchholz in der Nordheide, 2009, pp. 2-11. Peter Moore identifies the rival poet as the 2nd Earl of Essex, his ghostwriters as Anthony and Francis Bacon and the dates of composition of sonnets 78-80 and 82-87 (sonnet 81 does not belong to the “rival poet sonnets” series) after the return of Essex and Southampton from the expedition to the Azores.