



Wangaratta Threads

Quarterly newsletter of the
Wangaratta Family History Society Inc

Edition No. 111, August 2017

Open days:

Tuesday & Thursday each week
11.00am to 3.00pm.

3rd Saturday of each month
11.00am to 3.00pm.

Location:

1st Floor
100-104 Murphy Street
Wangaratta, Vic, Australia.
(above Visitor Information Centre).

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 683
Wangaratta, Vic, 3676
Australia.

email:

info@wfhs.org.au

Web address:

<http://www.wfhs.org.au/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Wangaratta-Family-History-Society-Inc-678865085537215/>

Registered No. A0022724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

DATES TO REMEMBER:

9 - 22nd October, 2017

RCoW Seniors Festival - We will be offering 1 hour of Free Research on Open Days between these dates, and will be looking for additional Duty assistance during this period. If you would like to help, you would be most welcome.

13 - 15th October, 2017

Deniliquin Family History Expo - see Facebook/Website for further details.

9th December, 2017

WFHS Christmas break up comprising a visit to the Eldorado Cemetery and possibly the Museum, followed by lunch at the McEvoy Tavern, "Victoria's Smallest Pub."

16th December, 2017

Next WFHS Members meeting 2pm.

FOR INFORMATION....

FAMILYSEARCH - FamilySearch Microfilm Distribution will be discontinued on August 31, 2017. Digital images of historical records can be accessed under the Search Tab on FamilySearch.org.

WFHS WEBSITE - Our new website is currently under construction, and after months of work, it is now in the final stages of development. Barring any issues, we hope to have it "operational and online" sometime during September. The Facebook page has also been removed, and will be reinstated to coincide with the launch of the new website.

WFHS LIBRARY - The Library books are being re-catalogued and progressively re-labelled. Anyone interested in assisting with this process or any other activity, please contact Beryl Strang or Val Brennan.

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MEMBERSHIP

Initial 1st year Admin Fee	\$10
Single full membership	\$30
Joint full membership	\$50

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members

Russell Simpson and **Michael Gray**.

COMMITTEE

President	Still looking for a president...
Vice President	Val Brennan 03 5727 6229
Treasurer	Dianne Cavedon 03 5722 2607
Secretary	Still looking for a secretary...
Editor	Christine Heard 03 5727 6370 lurgissy58@bigpond.com
Committee Members	Val McPherson, Peg Templeton, Faye Schusser

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY...

- **Grave Memories - Roma Cemeteries Vol 1 & 2 Jan 2005 & 2006** by Rebecca Kupfer.
- **The Remarkable Threads of Life** by Murray High School - Stories of Bhutanese refugees' transition to Australia.
- **Killara - The Story of the Intellectually Disabled Centre in Wangaratta** by Sherran Mitchell.
- **Mt. Carmel Convent & St. Mary's School, Rutherglen.** Reunion October 1989.
- **The Genealogists Internet** by Peter Christian.
- **Australian Aboriginal Words, Place Names and their meanings** - compiled by Sydney A. Endacott.
- **Cracking the Code of Old Handwriting** by Graham Jaunay.
- **How did they get here - Arrivals after 1924** by Cora Nunn.
- **Saunders Family** - compiled by Brenda Cooke.
- **Why Wangaratta? - The Phenomenon of the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz** by John Clare.
- **Orphanage Survivors - A True Story of St. John's Thurgoona** by Howard C. Jones.
- **Whorouly remembers** - Anzac Day 100 years on.
- **Australia's Gold Rushes** by Robert Coupe.
- **Australian Place Names** by Brian & Barbara Kennedy
- **A Genealogical History of Pioneer Families of Australia** by P. C. Moule

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE.....

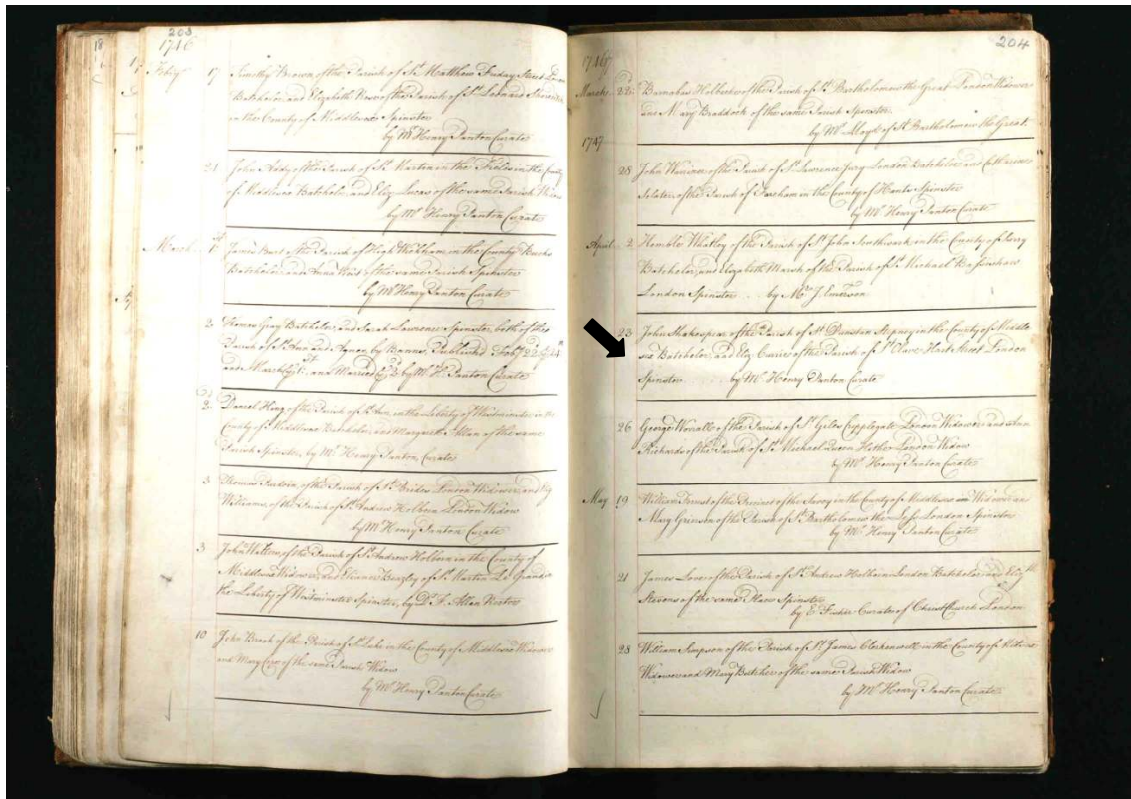
These are the words of the immortal bard, William Shakespeare. He is credited with the authorship of 37 plays and 154 sonnets and poems, written in the 16th and early 17th centuries but still studied, performed and celebrated 400 years after his death in 1616.



Above - The "Chesterfield Portrait" of Shakespeare possibly by Pieter Borsseler (1633-1687). Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons by Sreejithk2000

Can you imagine my excitement when, while doggedly pursuing a line of my own genealogical history, I came across an ancestor with the surname Shakespeare. Mary Shakespeare (27/8/1762) was my 4th great grandmother on my father's side, and I salivated with anticipation of finding a connection with William (who wouldn't?)

It appeared my Mary Shakespeare was the daughter of John Shakespeare (21/3/1718) of Shadwell, London, and Elizabeth Currie (b 1727) also of Shadwell, who married on 23/4/1747 at St. Anne and St. Agnes, London, England.



Mary Shakespeare married Laver Oliver, Esq., and this was the first mention I had of the name Shakespeare.

My Shakespeare line were very much from the merchant class. "A John Shakespeare of Shadwell, London, began a line of rope-makers who seem to have claimed their ancestry from Shakespeare's grandfather, Richard of Snitterfield....." ¹

Church records document that the Bard was baptised on 26th April, 1564 at Stratford-upon-Avon, his father also being a John Shakespeare or Shakspere as it is in the records.



Left - John Shakespear(e) Esq. b 1718 d 1775 - Alderman and Master of the Ironmongers Company in 1769.

It appears that my John Shakespear(e) was an Alderman, elected Master of the Ironmonger's Company in 1769, and "...repeatedly presented Shakespeare's coat of arms (without the falcon crest) next to his name.....on the rear wall of the present Ironmonger's Hall in Shaftesbury Place, London.....on his tomb at St. Paul's Shadwell..."²

We have a common ancestor, my 10th great grandfather, Richard Shakespeare (or Richard of Snitterfield), who happened to be William Shakespeare's grandfather. Richard was born in Stratford, Warwickshire in 1512, and married Abigail Webb (1515-1595) in 1535 at Stratford. Their children were:

John (1530-1601), Robert (b 1535), Thomas (1539-1583), and Matthew (1543-1601).

Matthew is my 9th great grandfather, and would have been an uncle to William, who was the son of Matthew's older brother, John. Unlike John, who went on to marry a well to do young lady called Mary Arden, of Park Hall, Matthew married Isabell Peele at Clerkenwell in London. Their first child John was born and died in Clerkenwell. A daughter, Joan, a son Humphrey, and another John were all born and died in infancy at Clerkenwell in London. Francis, Jane, Robert and Thomas followed, and it appears, survived beyond early childhood.



1. "Shakespeare Among the Courtesans, Prostitutes, Literature and Drama, 1500-1600" by Dr. Duncan Salkeld.
2. Ibid.

Their son Thomas, my 8th great grandfather, married Luce Booth on 25 August 1618 at St. Giles, Cripplegate. Two sons, John (1619-1689) and Thomas (1620) were born in London.

Eldest son, John had married Margaret Jude, but after her death in 1652, he remarried to Martha Seeley, who was 14 years his junior. As well as his son, John by Margaret Jude, he had another 8 children by his second wife.



His youngest son, Jonathon, married Elizabeth Shallett in 1698, and the birth of many children followed. In 1718, John Shakespeare was born, and he would go on to become an Alderman in 1769. His daughter, Mary born 1762 would marry Laver Oliver, and have a daughter, Anna Eliza Oliver (b 1797). Anna was wed to a hairdresser, George Newell Hussey (b 1787). Their daughter, Emma (b 1835) emigrated to Australia, where she married George Ryan Fulford in South Australia in 1857, and had a son and a daughter with her husband. They moved to the goldfields at Castlemaine where her son died in 1859, and her husband in 1860. Emma then went on to marry my great great grandfather, William James Heard in 1863. Their son, William George would be born in Taradale in 1866, as they made their way to their eventual home in Warrnambool.



Above - The grave of William James Heard and Emma Heard (nee Fulford, nee Hussey) at Warrnambool Cemetery.

Great grandfather, William George, married Mary Ballis in 1891 in Port Fairy. They had 6 children, but times were tough during the recession of the late 1890's, prompting them to move to Camperdown where William George found work. My grandfather, Robert James, youngest of their children was born in Camperdown in 1901, but by 1914, they had taken up residence in Emerald Hill (now South Melbourne).

In 1927, Robert James married Elsie May Knights (b 1902) and had two children, one of whom was my father.



Wow!!! I should be absolutely over-the-moon to have found a connection, however remote, to such a literary giant. The Bard is my 1st cousin, 10 x removed (well, I did say the connection was remote!)

But could I really say that I was ecstatic? Perhaps not? I do have doubts as to the authorship question, and have some leaning towards the alternative theory that William Shakespeare was the barely literate son of a glove maker who had the good fortune to be a nom de plume for the real author of such a celebrated and famous body of work.

So, if William Shakespeare wasn't the writer he is claimed to be, who do I think is the real Bard? There are several theories that have been advanced as to the authorship of these works, but my nominee would be the claimant advocated by the De Vere Society, Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford.

According to the De Vere Society, Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford is the most likely candidate for authorship, and such august personages as thespian Derek Jacobi support this assertion.



Jacobi himself appeared in a cameo role in the 2011 political thriller film "Anonymous" directed by Roland Emmerich and written by John Orloff. The film promotes the "Oxfordian theory of Shakespeare authorship"³, and stars Rhys Ifans as de Vere and Vanessa Redgrave as Elizabeth I of England.



With a backdrop of political intrigue at the Elizabethan court, the film explores the possibility that the urbane, well educated, widely travelled courtier Edward de Vere wrote the plays and based many of his characters on personalities at the Elizabethan Court.

William Shakespeare is portrayed in the film as a barely literate, drunken, womanising actor who

3. Oxford's candidacy as sole author was first proposed by J. Thomas Looney in his 1920 book "Shakespeare Identified."

extorts money from de Vere to build the Globe Theatre and to take on the mantle of authorship.

Now that definitely sounds more like my ancestor!

Other notables to support the Oxfordian theory are Sigmund Freud, Sir John Gielgud, Jeremy Irons, Charlie Chaplin, Orson Welles, Mark Twain, Alexander Waugh, Michael York and Mark Rylance.

The De Vere Society
Dedicated to the proposition that the works of Shakespeare were written by Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford

HOME EDWARD DE VERE SHAKESPEARE? CALENDAR RECOMMENDED READING THE DVS

Shakespeare Authorship Question

The SAQ attracts everyone from the casually curious to the passionately academic and many more on that compelling continuum, to the greatest literary challenge of all time – understanding the author behind Shakespeare's plays & poems. Courtier poet Edward De Vere was identified as a candidate in 1918 by J. Thomas Looney (Low-nee; the jokes are meant to detract & distract from the investigation), an English writer & teacher who assembled a profile of the author based on the content of the work. Further investigation has only augmented and illuminated the case for Edward De Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, to the point where he has become the leading candidate for the man behind the pseudonym. Adherents to the theory, known as Oxfordians, are a large and ever growing group who find the body of evidence persuasive for his claim to candidacy. The De Vere Society, founded in 1986, supports and encourages this investigation & conversation in order to reach a better, deeper understanding of the Works & the world that supported their creation.

"I do not [I] dismiss the serious examination of the Oxford question for a moment. ... I'd say something else, which will doubtless bring more trouble on my head: serious Oxfordians do things rather well. You've a relish for historical investigation, an acceptance of biographical and topical relevance, an open-mindedness about interdisciplinary studies, and a curiosity about documents, records, artefacts, cryptography, and all manifestations of Elizabethan culture and politics. Shakespeare's tragedy is that some – by no means all, but too many – of his academic supporters dismiss such matters as irrelevant, presumptuous, old-fashioned, grant work or, worse, done and dusted, conclusively resolved many years ago."

Mark Griffiths, PhD, Country Life comments, 24 May 2015, author of the forthcoming *The Fourth Man*

Have you read his will?

Like Shakespeare's sonnets, Shakespeare's last will & testament is a reflection of his personal self.

Shakespeare's will (1616) says he was a man of business, not a poet. He left his property to his wife, and his children. He was a man of the law, not a man of letters. He was a man of the world, not a man of the stage. He was a man of the court, not a man of the theatre. He was a man of the city, not a man of the country. He was a man of the law, not a man of letters. He was a man of the world, not a man of the stage. He was a man of the court, not a man of the theatre. He was a man of the city, not a man of the country.

Compare his writing about debt in, say, Hamlet: "...neither a borrower nor a lender be..." to how he dispenses his own debt issues in his own words, in his will: "household stuffe whatsoever, after my dettes and Legasies paid and my funeral expences discharged, I give devise and bequeath..."

The actual will and some commentary on reading it.

So you think you know Shakespeare?
Try this QUIZ and test yourself!

The Smart Person's Shakespeare.
Read on to discover why Edward de Vere is The Smart Person's Shakespeare.

Starting to have Questions?
Join myriad luminaries & Sign the Declaration of Reasonable Doubt about the Identity of William Shakespeare

Frequently Asked Questions
Click here for other frequently asked questions (FAQs)

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Please help us in our efforts to research and publicise information about the Identity of William Shakespeare.

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Latest Posts

- DVS September meeting 2017
- The Shakespeare Mystery
- De Vere Society Spring Meeting and AGM
- Theatre before Shakespeare and Playright Thomas Nashe – two new conferences
- Gaps in Our Ignorance

Upcoming Events

- 6:45 pm The Great Shakespeare Debate
- 10:00 am September meeting, DVS, London @ Prince Arthur Marble Arch

Endorsements

"Any friend of 'Shakespeare' is a friend of ours!" In signing the "Declaration of Reasonable Doubt" along with over 1200 others to date, we merely want to set the record straight about why some of us have our doubts!"
Mark Rylance

"We accept that Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare; it is just my opinion that he was not the man from Stratford. The name on the plays is hyphenated all the time and I believe it was a pseudonym. I believe the man from Stratford Upon Avon, known as Shakespeare, became the front man for Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford. The simple fact is the real could not be seen as a common playwright, he was living in a Skat type London."
Derek Jacobi

Tweets to @dvereblog

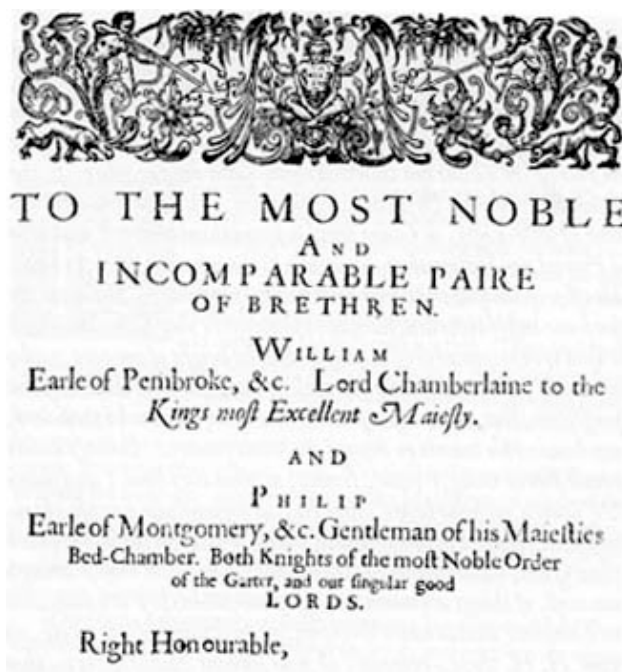
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Of course, you may ask, where is the evidence? Why is it that people want to challenge a fact universally acknowledged?

Some of the reasons for supporting de Vere as the author include:

1. De Vere was known as a theatrical man, supporting writers and playing companies throughout his lifetime.
2. The paucity of documents with Shakespeare's handwriting in evidence. Of those that have been found, they do show some differences in style.
3. Records of towns in which acting companies played during this time make no reference to Shakespeare, either as an actor or playwright.
4. Detailed theatrical records of the time also fail to make any reference to Shakespeare.
5. His death in Stratford register states "William Shakspere, gent." No mention of him as a playwright, poet, writer.....
6. No mention of manuscripts, plays, books, poems etc. nor any reference to Shakespeare's shares in the Globe and Blackfriars Theatres can be found in his will.
7. No mention of Shakespeare as a fellow writer is found in surviving papers of his literary contemporaries - there are some references to him as a player.
8. Unlike the deaths of his contemporaries, Shakespeare's death was not marked in any way as one would expect of a playwright and poet of his standing.
9. There is no record of Shakespeare ever having travelled on the continent, while de Vere spent a year travelling in Italy in 1575. Many of the plays are set in foreign locations and show good knowledge of local customs, geography and culture.



Above - The First Folio Dedication to the Earls of Pembroke and Montgomery.

10. A large number of the plays are set in courtly or wealthy society. Shakespeare with his humble background would have had no intimate knowledge of this society, while de Vere was born into and moved amongst this type of society.

11. There is no dating confirmation of when plays were written, only when they were registered for printing.

12. The First Folio carries a dedication to the Earls of Pembroke and Montgomery. Montgomery married de Vere's daughter Susan, and Pembroke had been betrothed to his daughter Bridget. Shakespeare would have had no connection with either of these two nobles.

Over time, the authorship question has been raised, debated and examined by many. Currently, the list of candidates for authorship stands at 87 persons, including Francis Bacon, Richard Burbage, Robert Cecil, Robert Devereaux, Christopher Marlowe, Elizabeth Manners, Henry Neville, Mary Herbert, William Stanley, Thomas Wolsey and Henry Wriothesley.

Some of these alternative authors continue to be championed by online groups around the world, but for my money, the arguments for de Vere have some merit.



Above - Portrait of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, after lost original 1575.

I do realise that in supporting the claim that William Shakespeare was a fraud, I am doing myself out of the opportunity to claim a towering figure in English literature for my family tree.

So be it! I find it hard to dispute evidence which is supported by the likes of intellectuals and scholars who are far better informed than I.

So, as "all the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players", I believe that William Shakespeare was possibly only a "player" or actor at most in Elizabethan England. I feel that he was simply an ordinary businessman from Warwickshire, who surprisingly, history has endowed with authorship of works more than likely written by Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford.

As a consequence of this belief, I am more than happy to claim a remote relationship to an ordinary Stratford businessman, the son of a glove maker, William Shakespeare!

Christine Heard
WFHS Member.

References:

Shakespeare Quotes Top 50
<http://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/quotes/famous-shakespeare-quotes/>

The De Vere Society
<http://deveresociety.co.uk>
Shakespeare: the Irrelevant Life by Richard Malim.

Ancestry.com.au - Heard Family Tree

"Anonymous" 2011

Wikipedia - List of Shakespeare authorship candidates
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Shakespeare_authorship_candidates

"Shakespeare Among the Courtesans, Prostitution, Literature and Drama 1500-1600" by Dr. Duncan Salkeld.



IMPONDERABLES....

Ponder on these imponderables for a minute.....

1. If you take an Oriental person and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented?
2. If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
3. Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
4. If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
5. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
6. Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
7. When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?
8. Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist but a person who drives a racing car not called a racist?
9. Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?
10. Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
11. Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one? (I like this one a lot!)

12. 'I am' is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. Could it be that 'I do' is the longest sentence?
13. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?
14. I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks so I wondered if Chinese mothers use toothpicks?
15. Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the postmen can look for them while they deliver the post?
16. You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.
17. No one ever says, 'It's only a game' when their team is winning.
18. Ever wonder about those people who spend a fortune on those little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backwards!
19. Isn't making a smoking section in a restaurant like making a peeing section in a swimming pool?
20. If 4 out of 5 people suffer from diarrhoea, does that mean that one enjoys it?
21. Why if you send something by road it is called a shipment, but when you send it by sea it is called cargo?.. 😊



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Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

<u>Copy deadline</u>	<u>Edition No:</u>	<u>For Publication:</u>
19 November 2017	112	24 November 2017
19 February 2018	113	24 February 2017
19 May 2018	114	24 May 2017
19 August 2018	115	24 August 2018

Disclaimer:

All information contained in this edition is published in good faith, with every effort made to validate fact, circumstance and source. *Ed.*