



William son to William Copton
Martha felix Thomas wife

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In Elizabethan times a man's penis was often referred to as his "willy," so did John not want his son named William because he feared "Willy" might be teased?

Stratford's Grammar School Education

The legend goes that Stratford was a boy-genius who attended the King Edward VI grammar school located in Stratford-upon-Avon. It is said that John Shakespeare and his family lived in a house on Henley Street, a short distance from the school. As an alderman, William's father would have wanted his son to receive a "free" education. Will started his education at age seven and ended it at age 16.

Stratfordians (people who hold that it was William Shakespeare himself who wrote the plays of William Shakespeare) will tell us that grammar schools back in the Elizabethan times were extremely strict.

A school day was like a modern elementary or middle school except there were

2-3 more hours per day for six days a week³, so students needed to live close to the grammar school because they would be coming home so late.

Looking at records found at the Folger website, John Shakespeare lists himself as a “tenant at Ingon Meadow” in 1570 when William was almost seven years old. It also shows proof that William Clopton was John Shakespeare’s landlord, and we recall him from when Anne Shakespeare was baptized in 1571 with William Clopton’s son, William. Other online records show the property John rented from Clopton was approximately 8 acres which is perfect for a small sheep farm and John could have rented out the Henley Street property and moved to the farm to improve his wool-storing capabilities.

John most likely rented out his house on Henley Street because the Folger shows two deeds in 1570 listing John Shakespeare as the tenant and William Clopton as the landlord of a parcel on Ingon Meadow, so why should we doubt otherwise?

There it reads, “Two conveyances of property in Warwickshire by William Clopton

³ <https://sites.google.com/a/pvlearners.net/elizabethan-education/home/grammar-schools>

showing John Shakespeare as a tenant of Ingon Meadow in the parish of Hampton Lucy.”



Notice how it mentions “in the parish of Hampton Lucy”? Sir Thomas Lucy was the owner of Charlecote Park, located about 3 miles from Ingon Meadow in the parish of Hampton Lucy. (It is the same location where Stratford allegedly poached a deer.)

Remember how [The Folger](#) showed us the baptism of William Clopton’s son and Anne Shakespeare in 1571? Well, it also tells us that in 1575 John Shakespeare no longer calls himself a “glover”.

Instead, he listed himself as a “yeoman” or farmer (a step above a husbandman) when he acted as a witness on another deed in 1575. This deed was for a neighbor selling his property on Henley Street. John might have called himself a yeoman to sound more like a gentleman, but who knows? A farmer fits in better with Stratford living on an eight-acre

property at Ingon Meadow. In 1575, William would have been 11 years old as he was born in 1564. The Folger also states the following:

Also of interest is the use of the term yeoman to describe John Shakespeare's occupation. John's trade was first mentioned in 1556, when he was described as a glover. In 1561, when granted administration of his father's estate, he was described as a husbandman, and now in 1575, as a yeoman, as he was on three subsequent occasions in 1579, 1580 and 1597. This expansion of his business interests is reflected in other evidence that by the 1570s he was involved in significant wool-dealing operations.

If John were involved in significant wool-dealing operations during the 1570's, wouldn't he need space to store his wool purchases? Therefore, an 8-acre farm seems ideal.

My point is, from 1570-1580, the Folger tells us that John Shakespeare is expanding his wool-dealing business and he describes himself as a yeoman (farmer) living in Ingon Meadow and *not as a glover* who lives in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Would John Shakespeare really want to move from the city to live on a farm? Stratfordians will say "no" because as an alderman of Stratford-upon-Avon, William would be entitled to a free education. However, the Folger gives evidence for

another answer. It tells us that John's first two children, Joan and Margaret had both died in the village, most likely of the plague. Joan was baptized in Sept. 1558 and passed away two months later, while Margaret was born in 1562 and died at five months in 1563⁴.

So, does it make sense for John Shakespeare to rent out his Henley Street house and move to an 8-acre farm in Ingon Meadow? Yes. Does it stop William from walking three miles to the grammar school to receive a free education? No. What *does* it change? It makes it more difficult for Stratford to be considered the "real" author. Here is why. According to modern-day Shakespeare experts, the "real" author had read two versions of Ovid's 15 book masterpiece, *Metamorphosis*. One version in English, translated by Arthur Golding and the other, the original in Latin.

William Shakespeare knew of Golding's Ovid and recalls it in several of his plays. However, Shakespeare did have knowledge of versions other than Golding's—for instance, a passage in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* seems to have a closer resemblance to the original Latin text than to Golding's English version. <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/ovids-metamorphoses> [The British Library]

⁴ Mabillard, Amanda. *Shakespeare of Stratford: Shakespeare's Siblings*. *Shakespeare Online*. 12 Sept. 2000.