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W. Shakespeare is known to be the greatest English poet and dramatist of his time as well as an investor in the Globe theatre and his home town. He was born on or about the 23rd of April 1564 in a half-timbered house in Henley Street, Stratford-upon Avon. Now the house is preserved as a memorial to the poet and is visited by pilgrims from all over the world. Practically all the timberwork, a cradle, a bed and other things in the room where he was born are original.

Both William's mother and father came from families of yeomen, small but independent property-owning farmers. William's father took an active part in civil life of Stratford, he was responsible for local order and administration, he remained a prominent figure. But at the end of 1576 he was overtaken by financial difficulties and he withdrew completely from the council.

The Stratford of the days when Shakespeare's parents set up their home was a quiet little place of 200houses. In 1553 it enjoyed the rights and privileges of a corporate borough. Anyway, to the neighboring villages, no doubt, it was something of a capital, but a very sleepy capital by our standards.

Very little is know about William's childhood. There is every reason to believe that he received his early education at the local grammar school.

No documentary evidence has been found as yet to show exactly what were Shakespeare's movements and activities during the years immediately following his departure from Stratford. It has been supposed that he may possibly have taught as a schoolmaster in the country or served for a time in a nobleman's household but the general opinion is that he went to London to seek his fortune in a company of players. He can be traced in London first as an actor and then as a reviser and writer of plays. Many of his plays were given in the famous Globe Theatre in London. By 1603 Shakespeare had already established his position as the leading poet and dramatist of his time. He was deriving a substantial income from his investments in the theatre and also from the investments which he was making in and around his home town, especially after the purchase of New Place in 1597. The investment was evidently profitable, since in 1599 he was able to buy a one-tenth interest in the new Globe theatre.

Shakespeare will be always remembered for his tragedies, comedies, sonnets. Who does not know his tragedies Romeo and Juliet, Othello, Hamlet, King Lear and Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream and many others.