

world's business.

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HE name of William Shakespeare, 2e 6d. Stratford-on-Avon between the dates the Manor of Rowington. of his birth and death, 1564-1616, was Besides the signature of the poet, I the post.

weighty arguments against the identity of the author of "Ham-let" with the William Shexpere

who displayed so keenly prac-tical a mind in the traffic of this

to do, and if some may regret that the from each other and from the poet.
William Shakespeare who sold malt It is practicable and necessary at at Stratford and got into litigation the present time to mention specifically poet has felt that he found the divine identification with the poet. afflatus in wine, the mere business of One of these revenue records from yet to record an instance of conducing William Shakespeare, the poet, is to high poetic inspiration.

at war with the special interests of the and reads as follows: is apposite and timely, iam Shexpere" that was interested in Shakespeare gen. late father of the said tion with the poet.

ton, there is a tendency to confuse him interest in it "unto my daughter, Su- called, and on April 18, 1617, with one or more of the several Will- sanna Hall, and her heirs forever." iam Shakespeares of Rowington, a vil-

tage and a quarter acre of land, in terest in it being only by right of his some other "William Shakespere" was which absolutely eliminates the Wil-"Walkers Streete alles Dead Lane, wife.

Just behind Shakespeare's residence Again, at a Court Leet of October 7, inge of hempe and flaxe in the comon from the ranks of the poet.

The record of this transaction, as en- to the Courte-xijd."

about a quarter of an acre and the annual rent payable to the crown as 2s 6d (which amount I find continued to be paid annually after his death by his daughter, Susanna Hall, even to the year of her own death in 1649), and another, of 1606, blocked out, but not 2s, instead of the correct amount of

Avon, his place of birth and death and my hands in the course of some years Cottage and backside-01i-2sburial, that the mention of one calls to of record searching. Among them are mind the other, and it is naturally scores of entries relating to numerous

have found the signature of some of tain others in the revenue records of We have a prima facie right to that these other William Shakespeares, to assaumption. It is so well grounded one of whom, by the way, King James on long-known records that only an early made a considerable grant of a record of admittance to a copyhold at absolute fact to the contrary can be land. These signatures serve as entertained in any given instance. It further means of identifying their reads: with such facts that we have here owners and of differentiating them

with one of his customers about it only certain of these revenue records was not the poet, an equable and tem- which distinctly name the poet, or his perate-minded world can but find quiet daughter, Susanna, or his son-in-law, satisfaction in the historical truth that Dr. Hall, and such other items as, namunfetters the life and ideals of the ing a William Shakespeare, might lead poet from the sordid business of the the unwary or the ambitious dilettanti. rewery and the still. While many a coming upon these, to further erroneous

maiting and brewing and selling has the Manor of Rowington mentioning Court Baron held September 28 and 29. Just now, when the welfare of hu- ter, Susanna, to the copyhold of the record of the admittance of his daughmanity more than ever is felt to be little Stratford cottage the year after allied with worldwide temperance and his death. It is dated April 18, 1617,

"Itm, of John Haule gen, and Susan, doubly so because by chance this is his wief for the ffyne of admyttance of the month of Shakespeare's birth and the gaid Susan vnto one cottage in item below. This removes him absodeath, to inquire who was the "Will- Stratford after the decease of Wm.

copyhold was in accordance with one of those officers of the law whom Also, since William Shakespeare, the Shakespeare's will, which provided that Shakespeare has so delightfully immorpoet, had the copyhold of a cottage at "my daughter, Judyth," for certain con- talized in Dogberry and his kind, a Stratford under the Manor of Rowing- siderations, should surrender all her constable, or "third borough," as he was

lage about 10 or 12 miles north of Manor of Rowington, held on April 16, at a Court Baron of the Manor of Stratford by the nearest road. This 1618, "John Hall of Stretford gent" was Rowington the sum of 6d "for yt he one of the number fined 6d each for beinge Third borows came nott to make The Manor of Rowington, the reve- "beinge a Copyholder of this Mannor p'sentmt of yt belongeth to his office." nues of which belonged to the crown, and oweing sewte to this Courte and Ih March, 1619, he or some other Willowned two little properties in Strat- made defaite." This, of course, relates jam of his name was fined there 4d. ford-on-Avon, and one of these, a cot- to the same property, Dr. Hall's in- and on October 10, 1621, the same or

called New Place, was purchased by 1628, Dr. Hall was fined 12d, thus: "Of brockes." the poet from Walter Getley in 1602, John Hall of Stratford vppon Avon Then comes another William of Rowand he was admitted to the copyhold gent one of the customary tenantes of ington. At a Court Leet and Court ing the succeeding century and be- Stratford. One of these William Shakespeare quis vendidit Cervisiam accordingly at a Court Baron of the this Manner at the fast of St Michael Paren beld Cervisian fine licenciam injust. accordingly at a Court Baron of the this Mannor att the feast of St. Michael Baron held October 20, 1625, a fine was Manor of Rowington on September 28, tharchangell next ensuyinge for his levied against "William Shakespere common fyne for respectinge his suite the younger for that he hath not

tered on the Manor Rolle, was long ago Then, in the "Rentall of the Mannor paine-xijd." Next, from the records of them with him. found by Malone. Nearly a century of Rowington," 1630, is entered the an- of "the Greate Leete & Courte Baron later, about 1881, Haliwell-Phillipps nual payment of rent to the Crown, of our Soveraigne Lord Kinge Charles"

We turn now to the question of the The certainty that he was not, howpublished also other records relating "Mr. John Hall for his coppiehold ijs for the Manor of Rowington, held on
brewer or maltster William Shaketo it from the land revenue department vjd," as we should find it in every October 7, 1628, we read, not only the
speare.

of the exchequer, one, of 1604, correctly year if all the records were extant. Item of the fine of 12d on Dr. Hall,

There were, as every one familiar modern historians who have examined volved his other brothers, Richard and later, about 1881. Haliwell-Phillipps nual payment of rent to the Crown, of our Soveraigne Lord Kinge Charles"

After Dr. Hall's death, in 1635, the fully filled in by the accountant, re- entries were in Mrs. Hall's name, and cording incompletely, by error of omis- at a Court Leet of March 28, 1638, was BY PROFESSOR CHARLES WILLIAM sion, the annual rent to the crown as entered, "of Mrs. Hall for her Comon WALLACE. Mrs. Hall's death, a survey of the the dramatist, is so indissolubly These and quantities of other rev- enters the annual real plants the dramatist, is so indissolubly These and quantities of other rev- enters the annual real plants the dramatist, is so indissolubly These and quantities of other rev- enters the annual real plants and the dramatist, is so indissolubly These and quantities of other rev- enters the annual real plants and the dramatist, is so indissolubly These and quantities of other rev- enters the annual real plants and the dramatist, is so indissolubly These and quantities of other rev- enters the annual real plants and the dramatist, is so indissolubly These and quantities of other rev- enters the annual real plants and the dramatist and t

Was Born

Shakespeare Was Born

So much for this little Stratford copyhold passed to William Shakestaken for granted that any William Shakespeares, several of them named peare the poet in 1602, and thus de-Shakespeare named in connection with William, not a few of whom belong to scended to his daughter. Its later history we pass.

Besides these items, there are certhe Manor of Rowington relating to a Court Baron held on March 27, 1607,

"William Shakespere for a fyne of advittance-ijs."

This might be assumed on sight to refer to the poet. But in fact he was admitted, as above, in 1602. Hence this does not refer to him, but to some other William. Besides, it occurs third in a list of fines against, respectively, "John Shakespere," "Thomas Shakespeare" and "William Shakespere," all in the manor of Rowington, thus the more definitely locating this William among the Rowington Shakespeares.

"Thomas Shakespere & Shakespere for a fyne of admyttancewere together admitted to a copyhold. This turns out to be the same William who, with his wife Mary, was readmitted to this same property upon surrender of it by Thomas, father, in 1628, as mentioned in another lutely from all possibility of identifica-

or about Stratford in the brewing Susan-ijs vjd."

Furthermore, this same or some other business and to determine at least This admittance of Mrs. Hall to the Rowington namesake of the poet was after the poet's death, this William A year later, at a Court Leet of the Shakespeare, the constable, was fined fined 12d at a Court Leet "for water-

scoured his ditche accordinge to the

as above noticed, but also "Of Willm with the enriching lifelong researches Shakespeare & Marye his wayfie for of Halliwell-Phillipps knows, numer- Shexpere" that engaged in malt selling Doet, similarly sold beer and got fined theire fyne of admittance to a Cotage ous Shakespeare families in Warwick- at Stratford it would be necessary to for it. This was at Knowle, an hour's & a quarter of a yard land with thap- shire in the time of Elizabeth and eliminate some of those numerous con- walk northwest of Rowington, or 12% purtenances within this Manor surren- James, located in at least 24 different temporary William: Shakespeares of miles almost due north of Stratford. dered by Thomas Shaxper thelder & parishes. A considerable number of Rowington as not belonging to the At a Court Leet of the Manor of the said Willim—vs xd." This is the the Shakespeares lived near Strat- brewery Shakespeares there. There was, Knowle, held on March 11, 1619, three final identifying item above mentioned ford. Several of them were also for example, William Shakespeare of years after the poet's death and only under the admittances of 1607 and 1609, named William.

The Poet and the Brewers.

Stratford-on-Avon

During the lifetime of William com the ranks of the poet. these other William Shakespeares a juryman in the manor court of Row- usual fine of 4d was entered against And so these Rowington William were living at Rowington, only two instep in 1614 could not sign his name, this William Shakespeare for selling Shakespeares continue on and on dur- or three hours' walk to the north of but left merely "the marke of William beer without a license-"De William yond. None of them, not even the speares of Rowington joined the army, est son of Richard and Elizabeth Shake- fine licenciam—litid." carliest, has any connection with the being enrolled on the muster rolls of speare of Rowington, who brought poet. This is sufficient for the pres. Rowington as a trained soldier in 1605, suits with reference to the wills of regularly sold malt at Stratford, beent to prevent any possible confusion and so by the sensationally inclined both his parents in 1614, for they both long to this same family of brewery both his parents in 1614, for they both has sometimes been absurdly mistaken died in April of that year, and who for the poet.

with his wife, Margery, was for the

Thomas, and sister, Joan, and the whole family estate. This William wrote a fair hand.

Then there was the William Shakespears above identified from 1607 to 1628, whose father was Thomas and whose wife was Mary; also the above named "William Shakespere the younger," in 1625, who was a boy or young man at the time of the poet's death; besides William the soldier of 1805 and William the constable of 1617, not to mention others. Some of these may be identified with each other, but at least six are different Williams.

It has even been suggested that William, the above litigant with his brother, John, was the poet. But fortunately we have from this William himself a statement concerning his life and occupation on the farm with his father, Richard, for the first 40 years of his life, and his service for some years thereafter under a master, Shakespeare was at that very time one in all a period of 54 years, thus defiof the busiest men in London, and a nitely eliminating him as a rival claimlike muster roll for Startford in the ant for the poet's honors. Besides, I same manuscript with the Rowington have his signature, written on February list contains no name of William or 8, 1616, a small, untrained hand, withany other Shakespeare. William Shake- out capitals, differing in character speare, the Rowington soldier, was throughout from the signature of the not improbably the above-named Wil- poet,

the matter judicially, for, as all know,

liam Shakespeare, the Rowington con-

portance to print.

There were still other Shakespeare stable or "third borough," an office not families at Rowington, and at least incompatible with "soldiering." one of them was engaged in the brew-The records concerning the Rowing- ing business. For example, between 1606 ton Shakespeares are more numerous and 1618 John Shakespeare, senior, than for other families of that name, sometimes called "the oldest," was fined have come upon many records of the nominal sum of 4d at nearly every them, some known and some unknown session of the Court Leet of the Manor to my illustrious predecessor, Halli- of Rowington during those 13 years, well-Phillips, who reported some 40 "for vitteling & breaking the assise" years ago that he had found enough (e. g., March 27, 1607), or "for brewing about them to fill 160 pages or so of & breaking thassise" (September 12, "Outlines." Part of them were 1608), or "for selling ale within this printed as long ago as 1867. But they Mannor & breakings the assise thereare not, on the whole, of sufficient im- of" (October 20, 1614), and so on, again and again. Here was a victualler and It is necessary simply to scrutinize brewer who probably found it more every record relating to any William profitable to pay a semi-annual fine of Shakespeare of Stratford and any 4d for breaking some regulation of his William Shakespeare of Rowington in trade, perhaps by short measure, than which there is any possibility of con- to conform strictly. Then from 1618 The Rowington Shakespeares onward we hear no more of John. His have been traced from the fourteenth son, Thomas, was thereafter from year century. For a long time, until less to year, for the next 20 years, similarly than a century ago, it was thought that fined "for sellinge of Ale by vniawfull they might be related to the poet's measures & for breakinge the assise" family. There is no evidence of any (e. g., October 7, 1628).

such kinship. If any, it goes back too Also a William Shakespeare of the too far to be of any consequence, neighborhood, not improbably of the In determining who was the "William same family, a contemporary of the

At a Court Leet of the Manor of Rowington, whose father, Richard, died the next year after the last entry of in 1560; another William, whose father fines against John Shakespeare for liam Shakespeare there in question Shakespeare the poet, at least six of died in 1551; another William, who as brewing and selling ale as above, the ington in 1614 could not sign his name, this William Shakespeare for selling

> Did the William Shakespeare, who long to this same family of brewery Shakespeares?

In the Court of Record at Stratford is the entry of a suit brought in Michaelmas, 1604, by "William Shex-pere" against Philip Rogers to re-



(Concluded on Page 6)