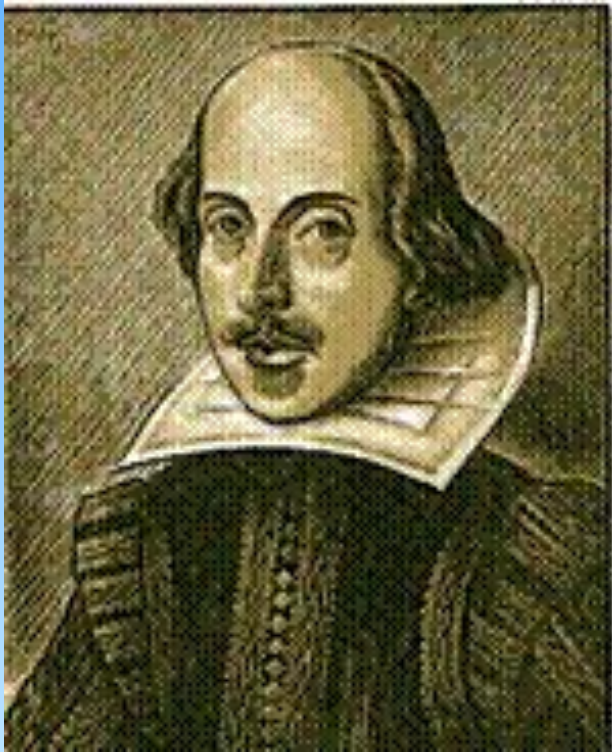


# William Shakespeare – some biographical notes



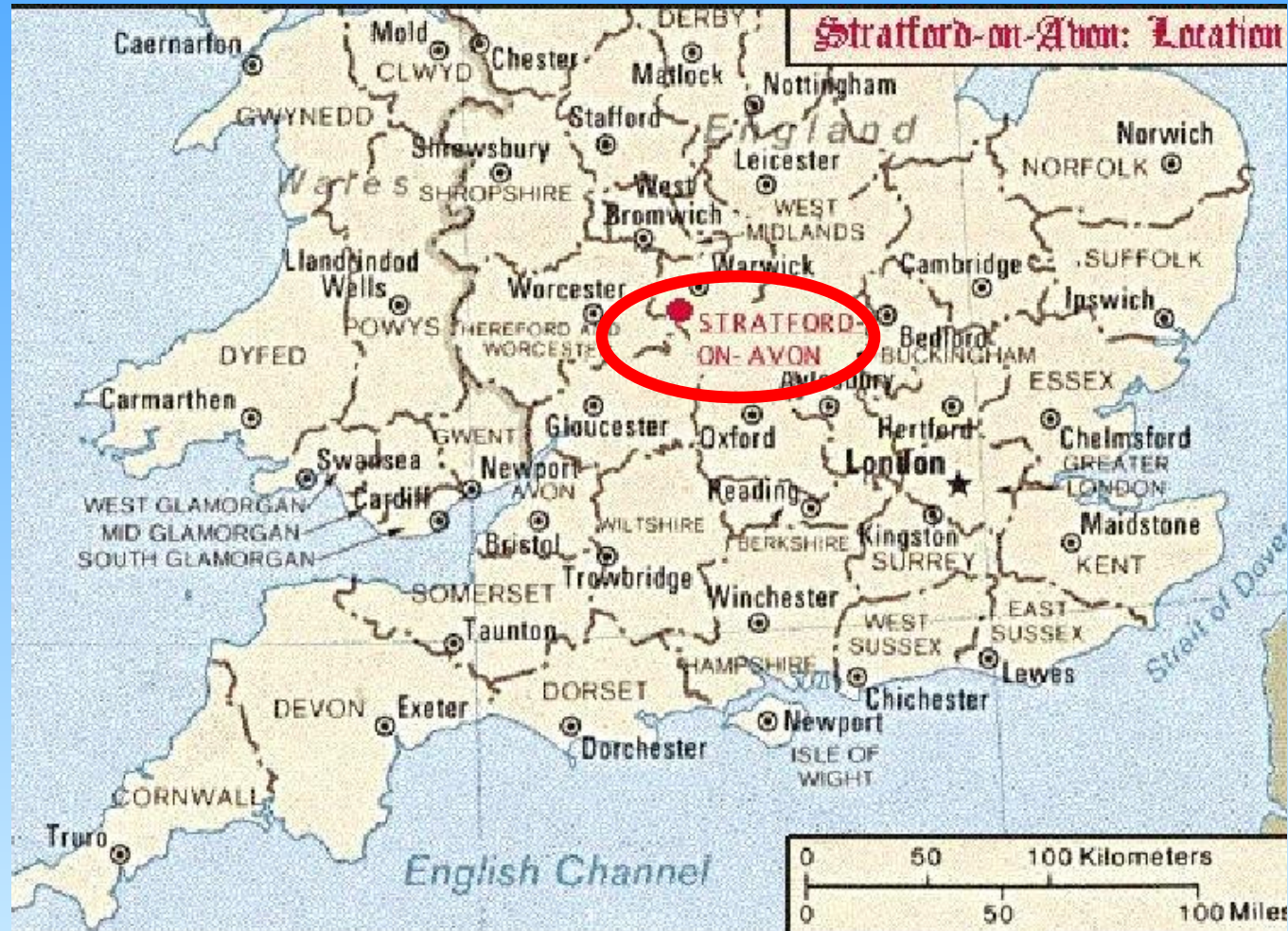
# The early years

- ◆ Born in April 1564  
in Stratford on Avon
- ◆ His father - a fairly  
rich merchant





# Stratford on Avon



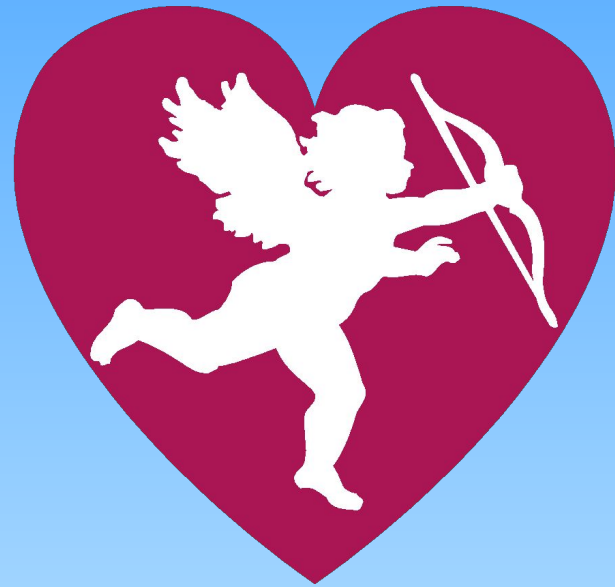
# Shakespeare's schooling





# Wife and Children

- ◆ Marriage to Anne Hathaway in 1582
- ◆ Anne was 26, he was 18
- ◆ 3 children
- ◆ The youngest, Hamnet died at the age of 11



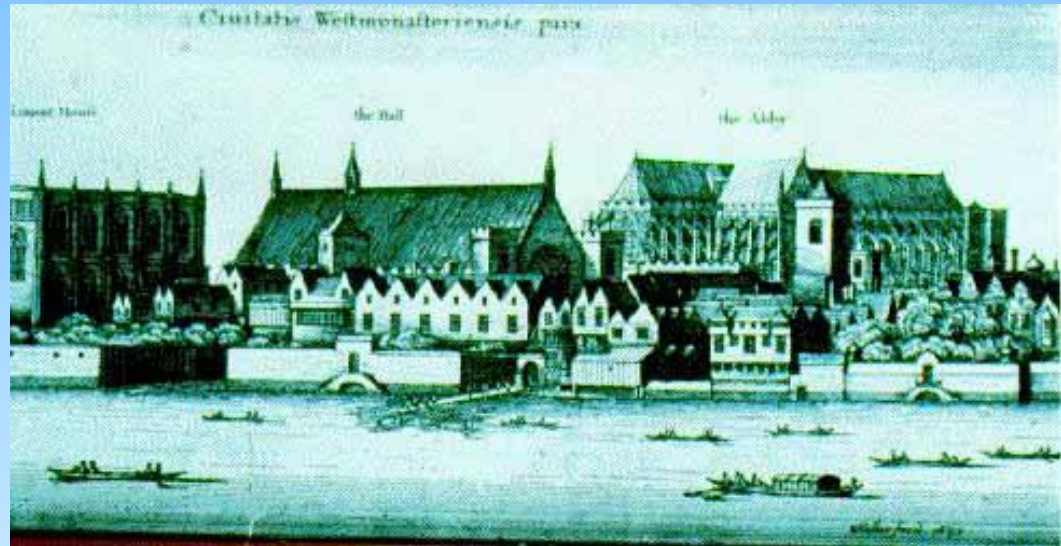
# London

- ◆ went to London at 21
- ◆ joined a travelling company of actors
- ◆ worked both as an actor and a writer



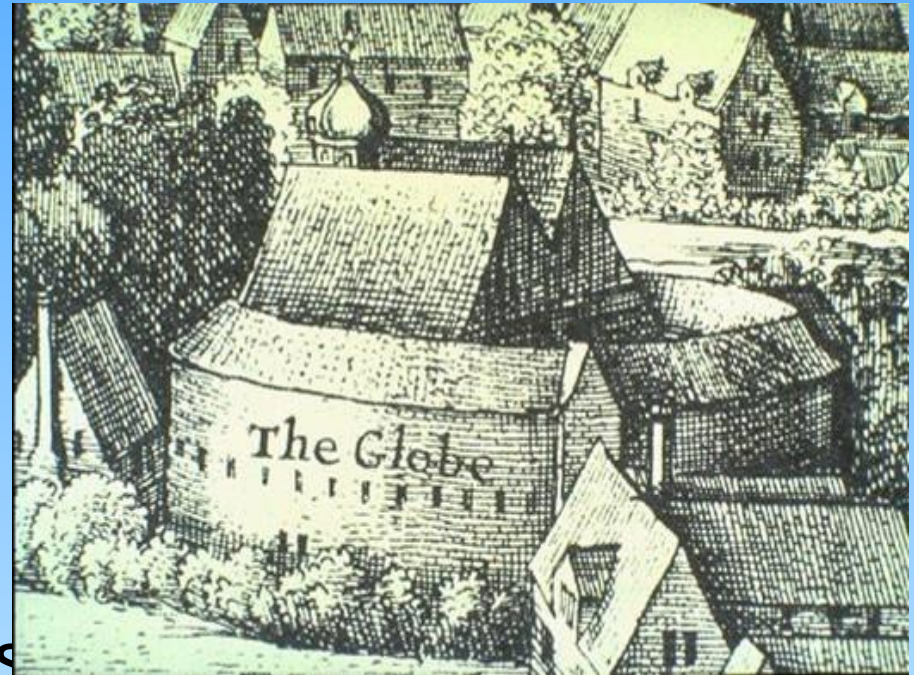
# London Life in the 16<sup>th</sup> century

- Poor sewer system
- High crime rate
- But ...
- 200,000 inhabitants
- the cultural and political heart of England



# The Globe Theatre

- ◆ opened in 1599
- ◆ His successes had made Shakespeare a rich man
- ◆ He became one of the principal investors





# Ups and downs

- Failures and successes
- The affair with the "Dark Lady"



# The end of his life

- ❖ Return to Stratford in 1610
- ❖ Destruction of the Globe Theatre in 1613 (the Great Fire of London)
- ❖ In 1616 Shakespeare died on April, 23 (his birthday!)



# Looking back

- Shakespeare wrote 37 plays ...
- ... and 154 sonnets...
- ... and an unknown number of long epic poems



"All's well that ends well"