

# Contents

Preface	xi
Note on Procedures	xvi
A Note on Handwriting	xviii
1 Stratford Town and Stratford Church	3
2 The Shakespeares: from Snitterfield to Stratford	13
3 Offspring	20
4 Rise and Fall	27
5 John Shakespeare's Spiritual Testament	41
6 Faith and Knowledge	47
7 Early Employment and Marriage	60
8 The Lost Years	77
9 London and the Theatres	96
10 The Upstart Crow	111
11 Plays, Plague, and a Patron	120
12 The Lord Chamberlain's Man	137
13 A Gentleman of Means	161
14 His Majesty's Servant	195
15 Stratford Again	228
Acknowledgements of Facsimiles	263
Index	264