

= Judith Quiney =

Judith Quiney (baptised 2 February 1585 ? 9 February 1662) , née Shakespeare , was the younger daughter of William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway and the fraternal twin of Shakespeare 's only son Hamnet Shakespeare . She married Thomas Quiney , a vintner of Stratford @-@ upon @-@ Avon . The circumstances of the marriage , including Quiney 's misconduct , may have prompted the rewriting of Shakespeare 's will . Thomas was struck out , while Judith 's inheritance was attached with provisions to safeguard it from her husband . The bulk of Shakespeare 's estate was left , in an elaborate fee tail , to his elder daughter Susanna and her male heirs .

Judith and Thomas Quiney had three children . By the time of Judith Quiney 's death , she had outlived her children by many years . She has been depicted in several works of fiction as part of an attempt to piece together unknown portions of her father 's life .

= = Birth and early life = =

Judith Shakespeare was the daughter of William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway . She was the younger sister of Susanna and the twin sister of Hamnet . Hamnet , however , died at the age of eleven . Her baptism on 2 February 1585 was recorded as ? Judeth Shakespeare ? by the vicar , Richard Barton of Coventry , in the parish register for Holy Trinity Church , Stratford @-@ upon @-@ Avon . The twins were named after a husband and wife , Hamnet and Judith Sadler , who were friends of the parents . Hamnet Sadler was a baker in Stratford .

Unlike her father and her husband , Judith Shakespeare was probably illiterate . In 1611 she witnessed the deed of sale of a house for £ 131 to William Mountford , a wheelwright of Stratford , from Elizabeth Quiney , her future mother @-@ in @-@ law , and Elizabeth 's eldest son Adrian . Judith signed twice with a mark instead of her name .

= = Marriage = =

On 10 February 1616 , Judith Shakespeare married Thomas Quiney , a vintner of Stratford , in Holy Trinity Church . The assistant vicar , Richard Watts , who later married Quiney 's sister Mary , probably officiated . The wedding took place during the pre @-@ Lenten season of Shrovetide , which was a prohibitive time for marriages . In 1616 , the period in which marriages were banned without dispensation from the church , including Ash Wednesday and Lent , started on 23 January , Septuagesima Sunday and ended on 7 April , the Sunday after Easter . Hence the marriage required a special licence issued by the Bishop of Worcester , which the couple had failed to obtain . Presumably they had posted the required banns in church , since Walter Wright of Stratford was cited for marrying without banns or licence : but this was not considered sufficient . The infraction was a minor one apparently caused by the minister , as three other couples were also wed that February . Quiney was nevertheless summoned by Walter Nixon to appear before the Consistory court in Worcester . (This same Walter Nixon was later involved in a Star Chamber case and was found guilty of forging signatures and taking bribes) . Quiney failed to appear by the required date . The register recorded the judgement , which was excommunication , on or about 12 March 1616 . It is unknown if Judith was also excommunicated , but in any case the punishment did not last long . In November of the same year they were back in church for the baptism of their firstborn child .

The marriage did not begin well . Quiney had recently impregnated another woman , Margaret Wheeler , who died in childbirth along with her child ; both were buried on 15 March 1616 . A few days later , on the 26 March , Quiney appeared before the Bawdy Court , which dealt , among other things , with " whoredom and uncleanness . " Confessing in open court to " carnal copulation " with Margaret Wheeler , he submitted himself for correction and was sentenced to open penance " in a white sheet (according to custom) " before the Congregation on three Sundays . He also had to admit to his crime , this time wearing ordinary clothes , before the Minister of Bishopton in Warwickshire . The first part of the sentence was remitted , essentially letting him off with a five

@-@ shilling fine to be given to the parish 's poor . As Bishopton had no church , but only a chapel , he was spared any public humiliation .

= = Chapel Lane , Atwood 's and The Cage = =

Where the Quineys lived after their marriage is unknown : but Judith owned her father 's cottage on Chapel Lane , Stratford ; while Thomas had held , since 1611 , the lease on a tavern called " Atwood 's " on High Street . The cottage later passed from Judith to her sister as part of the settlement in their father 's will . In July 1616 Thomas swapped houses with his brother @-@ in @-@ law , William Chandler , moving his vintner 's shop to the upper half of a house at the corner of High Street and Bridge Street . This house was known as " The Cage " and is the house traditionally associated with Judith Quiney . In the 20th century The Cage was for a time a Wimpy Bar before being turned into the Stratford Information Office .

The Cage provides further insight into why Shakespeare would not have trusted Judith 's husband . Around 1630 Quiney tried to sell the lease on the house but was prevented by his kinsmen . In 1633 , to protect the interests of Judith and the children , the lease was signed over to the trust of John Hall , Susanna 's husband , Thomas Nash , the husband of Judith 's niece , and Richard Watts , vicar of nearby Harbury , who was Quiney 's brother @-@ in @-@ law and who had officiated at Thomas and Judith 's wedding . Eventually , in November 1652 , the lease to The Cage ended up in the hands of Thomas ' eldest brother , Richard Quiney , a grocer in London .

= = William Shakespeare 's last will and testament = =

The inauspicious beginnings of Judith 's marriage , in spite of her husband and his family being otherwise unexceptional , has led to speculation that this was the cause for William Shakespeare 's hastily altered last will and testament . He first summoned his lawyer , Francis Collins , in January 1616 . On 25 March he made further alterations , probably because he was dying and because of his concerns about Quiney . In the first bequest of the will there had been a provision " vnto my sonne in L [aw] " ; but " sonne in L [aw] " was then struck out , with Judith 's name inserted in its stead . To this daughter he bequeathed £ 100 (about £ 20 @,@ 000 as of 2016) " in discharge of her marriage porcion " ; another £ 50 if she were to relinquish the Chapel Lane cottage ; and , if she or any of her children were still alive at the end of three years following the date of the will , a further £ 150 , of which she was to receive the interest but not the principal . This money was explicitly denied to Thomas Quiney unless he were to bestow on Judith lands of equal value . In a separate bequest , Judith was given " my broad silver gilt bole . "

Finally , for the bulk of his estate , which included his main house , New Place , his two houses on Henley Street and various lands in and around Stratford , Shakespeare had set up an entail . His estate was bequeathed , in descending order of choice , to the following : 1) his daughter , Susanna Hall ; 2) upon Susanna 's death , " to the first sonne of her bodie lawfullie yssueing & to the heires Males of the bodie of the saied first Sonne lawfullie yssueing " ; 3) to Susanna 's second son and his male heirs ; 4) to Susanna 's third son and his male heirs ; 5) to Susanna 's " ffourth ... ffyfth sixte & Seaventh sonnes " and their male heirs ; 6) to Elizabeth Hall , Susanna and John Hall 's firstborn , and her male heirs ; 7) to Judith and her male heirs ; or 8) to whatever heirs the law would normally recognise . This elaborate entail is usually taken to indicate that Thomas Quiney was not to be entrusted with Shakespeare 's inheritance , although some have speculated that it might simply indicate that Susanna was the favoured child .

= = Children = =

Judith and Thomas Quiney had three children :

Shakespeare (baptised 23 November 1616 ? buried 8 May 1617)

Richard (baptised 9 February 1618 ? buried 6 February 1639)

Thomas (baptised 23 January 1620 ? buried 28 January 1639)

Shakespeare was named for his grandfather . Richard 's name was common among the Quineys : his paternal grandfather and an uncle were named Richard .

Shakespeare Quiney died at six months of age . Richard and Thomas Quiney were buried within nine days of each other , 21 and 19 years old respectively . The deaths of all of Judith 's children resulted in new legal consequences . The entail on her father 's inheritance led Susanna , along with her daughter and son @-@ in @-@ law , to make a settlement using a rather elaborate legal device for the inheritance of her own branch of the family . Legal wrangling continued for another thirteen years , until 1652 .

= = Death = =

Judith Quiney had died by 9 February 1662 , the day of her burial and a week after her 77th birthday . She outlived her last surviving child by 23 years . She was buried in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church , but the exact location of her grave is unknown . Of her husband , the records show little of his later years . It has been speculated that he may have died in 1662 or 1663 , when the parish burial records are incomplete , or that he may have left Stratford @-@ upon @-@ Avon . He is known to have had a nephew , living in London , who by this time was holding the lease to The Cage .

= = Literary references = =

Judith is portrayed in William Black 's Judith Shakespeare : Her Love Affairs and Other Adventures , published serially in Harper 's Magazine in 1884 . She is one of the main characters in Edward Bond 's 1973 play Bingo , which portrays the last years of her father , in retirement in Stratford on Avon . She also appears in one of the final stories in Neil Gaiman 's graphic novel , The Sandman . Gaiman compared Judith with the character Miranda from Shakespeare 's The Tempest . She is the subject of the 2003 novel My Father Had a Daughter : Judith Shakespeare 's Tale by Grace Tiffany . The radio play Judith Shakespeare by Nan Woodhouse portrays her as " a loner , yearning to be a part of her playwright father 's life " . She travels to London to join him and has a troubling affair with a young aristocrat . " Shakespeare 's Daughter " is the title of a short story by Mary Burke that was short @-@ listed for a 2007 Hennessy / Sunday Tribune Irish Writer prize .

In A Room of One 's Own , Virginia Woolf created a character , " Judith Shakespeare " , although she is supposed to be Shakespeare 's sister rather than his daughter . Besides the similar names and setting , there is no other direct connection between Judith , Shakespeare 's daughter , and Woolf 's creation , and in fact Shakespeare 's sister was named Joan . In Woolf 's story Shakespeare 's sister is denied the education of her brother despite her obvious talent . When her father tries to marry her off , she runs away to join a theatre company but is ultimately rejected because of her gender . She becomes pregnant , is abandoned by her partner , and commits suicide . Woolf 's Judith was created in an attempt to fill a historical gap . Woolf intended to make a point about the struggle that a female poet and playwright would have had in the Elizabethan age . Woolf speculated as to why there were so few talented women from that time . " What I find deplorable , " she observed , " is that nothing is known about women before the eighteenth century . "