

1327-77

REIGN OF KING EDWARD III (crowned at age 14).

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| 1328 | Edward marries Philippa of Hainault; Sir Paon de Roet in her entourage. |
| 1330 | Birth of Edward, the Black Prince. |
| 1331 | 1331 England at war with Scotland: France intervenes on behalf of Scotland. |
| 1338 | Boccaccio completes <i>Il Filostrato</i> . Unsuccessful invasion of northern France (beginning of Hundred Years' War). John Chaucer (Geoffrey's father) in the King's company. |
| 1340 | Birth of John of Gaunt. |
| 1343 | (?) Birth of Geoffrey Chaucer to John (a wine merchant) and Agnes Copton, heiress to Hamo de Copton, a London banker Edward III takes title "King of France," setting up the "Hundred Years' War" |
| 1346 | Victory over France at Battle of Crécy. |
| 1347-9 | John Chaucer holds post as King's Deputy Butler in the port of Southampton. |
| 1348-9 | Black Death reaches England. |
| 1350's | Alliterative poetry again popular in North-west and Western England. The <i>Pearl</i> -poet flourishes. |
| 1351 | First "Statutes of Laborers" attempts to fix wages and control the labor movement in the period of labor shortages after the black death. |
| 1356 | Battle of Poitiers; high point of England's success in the "100 Year War" with France; King John of France captured, he and his retainers live in the English court for three years. |
| 1357 | First record of Chaucer: a young page in household of Countess of Ulster, wife of Prince Lionel (Edward III's second son). Phillippa Pan also in household. |
| 1359-60 | In service as a <i>valettus</i> (yeoman) in the retinue of Prince Lionel. May, 1359: (?) Chaucer at wedding of John of Gaunt and Blanche of Lancaster. According to Scrope-Grosvenor trial (1386), Chaucer first took up arms in this year. Gaunt becomes Duke of Lancaster. After November 3: Chaucer in France in Prince Lionel's company. |
| 1360 | Chaucer captured in France and ransomed by the king for £16. |
| 1361-67 | <i>Prier a Nostre Dame; Romaunt of the Rose</i> ; early <i>Complaints</i> . Somewhere late in this period is the earliest possible date for the A-text of Langland's <i>Piers Plowman</i> . |
| 1361 | Black Prince marries Joan of Kent. (?) Chaucer at Inns of Chancery or possibly at university. |

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| | Terrible second wave of black plague. |
| 1363 | Death of Countess of Ulster. (?) Philippa Pan (later Chaucer) enters service of Queen Philippa. (?) Chaucer at Inns of Court. |
| 1365-6 | Marries Philippa, 1st daughter of Paon de Roet (in the household of Queen Philippa) and sister of Katherine (later mistress and third wife of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster). |
| 1366 | February 22-May 24: safe conduct for Chaucer to travel in Spain. Philippa Chaucer granted royal annuity of 10 marks. Death of Chaucer's father; mother remarries. |
| 1367 | Geoffrey Chaucer granted royal annuity of 20 marks as he enters the King's service as an esquire of the royal household. Birth of son, Thomas. |
| 1368 | Death of Blanche, John of Gaunt's wife and Duchess of Lancaster. French war active. Chaucer on mission in France. |
| 1369 | Chaucer with Gaunt in raid on Picardy. Death of Queen Philippa. (?) Philippa Chaucer enters Gaunt's household. |
| 1370 | June 20-September 29: Chaucer on mission in France, (?) with Gaunt in Aquitaine. |
| 1371 | Gaunt marries Princess Constanza of Castile, King Pedro's daughter. |
| 1372 | Katherine Swynford, sister of Philippa Chaucer, bears first son by Gaunt. August 30: Gaunt grants Philippa Chaucer annuity of £10. December 1: Chaucer leaves for Genoa, visits Florence. (Boccaccio in Florence; Petrarch in Padua. Probably first contact with poetry of Boccaccio, Petrarch, Dante.) |
| 1373 | May 23: Chaucer returns to London. (?) Birth of Thomas Chaucer. July 13: Gaunt goes to French wars. |
| 1374 | April 10: Gaunt returns from French wars. April 23: Chaucer receives a royal grant of a pitcher of wine daily. May 10: Chaucer leases Aldgate house and sets up housekeeping. June 8: Chaucer made controller of customs. June 13: Geoffrey and Philippa receive £10 annuity from Gaunt. Death of Petrarch. |
| 1375 | Death of Boccaccio. |
| 1376 | Death of Edward, the Black Prince. Chaucer on mission to Calais. The "Good Parliament": the Commons attempt to purge the royal household of foreign influence and assert control over the king's choice of advisors. |
| 1377 | February 17: April 30: Chaucer on mission in France concerning peace treaty and marriage of Richard. |

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| | <p>June 22: death of Edward III and accession of his grandson, Richard II, age 10. Government controlled by Gaunt.</p> <p>Guillaume de Machaut, French Troubadour Poet, dies. During late 70's Langland revising <i>Piers Plowman</i>, B-text.</p> |
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1377-1399

REIGN OF KING RICHARD II

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| 1378 | <p>January 16-March 9: Chaucer in France concerning marriage of Richard to French king's daughter Marie.</p> <p>April 18: daily pitcher of wine replaced by annuity of 20 marks.</p> <p>May 28--September 19: Chaucer in Lombardy to treat with Barnabo Visconti (Gower given Chaucer's power of attorney).</p> |
| 1380 | <p>May 1: Chaucer released from suit for "raptus" of Cecily Chaumpaigne.</p> <p>(?) Birth of Lewis Chaucer (for whom Chaucer wrote the Treatise on the Astrolabe in 1391).</p> |
| 1381 | <p>Peasant's Revolt. June 19: deed of Geoffrey Chaucer, son of John Chaucer, vintner of London, quitclaiming his father's house. Death of Chaucer's mother, Agnes Copton.</p> |
| 1381 to 1386 | <p>Langland working on <i>Piers Plowman</i>, C Text.</p> |
| 1382 | <p>Richard II marries Anne of Bohemia. Chaucer's controllorship of the customs is renewed, with permission to have a deputy.</p> |
| 1383 | <p>Chaucer obtains first loan against his annuity</p> |
| 1385 | <p>October 12: Chaucer appointed justice of the peace in Kent. He is granted a permanent deputy in the customs.</p> <p>Political struggle between Gaunt and his brother, Thomas of Woodstock.</p> <p>September: death of Joan of Kent.</p> <p>Eustache Deschamps sends Chaucer a poem of praise, hailing him as "great translator, noble Geoffrey Chaucer."</p> |
| 1386 | <p>Justice of peace reaffirmed. February 19: Philippa admitted to fraternity of Lincoln Cathedral.</p> <p>August: Chaucer elected member of Parliament from Kent.</p> <p>October 5: Aldgate house rented to Richard Forester.</p> <p>October 15: Scrope-Grosvenor trial.</p> <p>December 4: Chaucer resigns and Adam Yardley appointed controller of customs.</p> |
| 1386-87 (perhaps earlier) | <p>Chaucer is praised as a poet of Love and Philosophy by Thomas Usk, a younger contemporary (1350-88), author of <i>The Testament of Love</i>.</p> |
| 1387 | <p>Death of Phillipa; June 18: last payment of annuity to Philippa Chaucer. Possibly buried at St. Mary the Virgin in East Worldham,</p> |

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| | <p>Hants., a manor connected to the Burgersh family.</p> <p>Elizabeth Chaucer, possibly a daughter of the poet, enters the convent at St. Helen's Bishopsgate and takes vows as a nun along with (her cousin?) Margaret Swynford at Barking Abbey in 1381.</p> <p>John Gower begins his <i>Confessio Amantis</i>, which contains Venus's praise of Chaucer.</p> |
| 1388 | May 1: Chaucer surrenders his royal annuities to John Scalby of Lincolnshire. Some of Richard's closest supporters removed by the Lords Appellant; some (including Thomas Usk) are executed. |
| 1389 | King Richard assumes power. Chaucer appointed clerk of the King's works (more than £30 per year). Christine de Pizan begins writing in France. |
| 1390 | <p>Commissions to repair St. George's Chapel, Windsor; to oversee repairs on the lower Thames sewers and conduits; to build bleachers for jousts at Smithfield, etc.</p> <p>Chaucer robbed of "the king's money" (horse, goods, 20 pounds, 6 shillings, 8 pence) on the highway at Hacham, Surrey</p> <p>Chaucer appointed sub-forester of North Petherton, Somerset.</p> |
| 1391 | June 17: Resigns as clerk of the king's works; another clerk appointed. |
| 1393 | Chaucer granted a gift of £10 from Richard for services rendered "in this year now present." |
| 1394 | Death of Queen Anne. Chaucer granted a new annuity of £20. |
| 1395 | <p>Richard marries Isabella of France.</p> <p>Thomas Chaucer marries Maud Berghersh, co-heiress to the Lord Chancellor of England and owner of Ewelme Manor, Oxon.</p> |
| 1397 | Granted a tun of wine a year. John of Gaunt marries Katherine Swynford and their children are legitimized as the Beaufort family. |
| 1398 | Chaucer borrows against his annuity; action for debt against Chaucer; letters of protection from the King. |
| 1399 | <p>Deposition of Richard II. Death of John of Gaunt. October 13: on his coronation day, Henry doubles Chaucer's annuity.</p> <p>Thomas Chaucer appointed Chief Butler to Richard II.</p> <p>Agnes Chaucer, possibly a daughter of the poet, is a lady in waiting for the Coronation of Henry IV.</p> <p>December 24: Chaucer signs 53-year lease for tenement in the garden of the Lady Chapel, Westminster Abbey.</p> |

**1399-1413
and after**

**REIGN OF KING HENRY IV
and after.....**

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| 1400 | <p>Henry renews Chaucer's annuities, backdated to his accession.</p> <p>Henry renews and extends Thomas Chaucer's annuities.</p> |
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| | <p>September 29: last record of Chaucer: quittance given by him for a tun of wine received.</p> <p>October 25: date of Chaucer's death on tombstone in Westminster Abbey (erected in 1556). First tenant of "Poets' Corner" at Westminster.</p> <p>Thomas Chaucer first elected to Parliament; he will serve a total of 14 terms by 1431.</p> |
| 1400-1402 | Thomas Chaucer appointed sheriff of Berkshire and Oxfordshire |
| 1403 | Payment is made to Thomas and 'Ludowicus' (Lewis) Chaucer for service as <i>homines ad arma</i> at Carmarthen Castle. |
| 1404 (?) | Alice Chaucer, only child of Thomas Chaucer, is born. |
| 1407 | Thomas Chaucer elected Speaker of the House of Commons. |
| 1411 | Thomas Chaucer granted the manor of Woodstock. |
| 1414-15 | Thomas Chaucer in service of Henry V, including negotiations for his marriage and by his side at Agincourt. |
| 1415 | Alice Chaucer is married to Sir John Philip at age 11; he dies at the battle of Harfleur later that year. |
| 1418 | Thomas Chaucer named Lord of the Manor of East Worldham, Hants. |
| 1424 | Before November of this year, Alice Chaucer marries Thomas Montagu, Earl of Salisbury. |
| 1428 | Alice Chaucer's second husband, Thomas Montagu, Earl of Salisbury, dies. |
| 1430 | Alice Chaucer marries her third husband, William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. |
| 1434 | Death of Thomas Chaucer; Maud dies in 1436. |
| 1442 | John de la Pole, son of Alice Chaucer, 2 nd Duke of Suffolk, born |
| 1449 | John de la Pole (age 7) marries Lady Margaret Beaufort (age 6). Lady Margaret is the great-granddaughter of John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford. |