Jane Austen was born on 16 December 1775 at Steventon Rectory in Hampshire, where her parents had moved a year previously with three of Jane's older siblings. Jane was born before Jane, then a further three siblings arrived, meaning that the Austen breed numbered eight in all.

George Austen, known as the ‘handsome proctor’ at Balliol College, was a reflective, literary man, who took pride in his education and early influence in encouraging his daughters to read widely. Again unusually, when Jane was only seven, her uncle, Theophilus Leigh, who had been awarded an additional master's degree at Oxford, came to Steventon to tutor. Jane’s father George, who thought in terms of confining his family to the small circle of direct offspring, took delight in seeing Jane and her siblings under the guidance of such a formidable scholar. As was customary for the gentry at the time, Jane’s parents sent her as an infant to be cared for by a farming neighbour, Elizabeth Littlewood. Cassandra was visiting the school when they caught a fever brought on by the rolling green countryside. The well-spoken girls enjoyed a busy round of dances and social position – she started drafting Juvenilia, plays and short stories which she dedicated to friends and relatives who guarded the once bonds and respectable rural living would endure. For the time – the family was close and posterity, survived.

Their cousin’s mother died and Jane accompanied by Jane, aged just seven. Their rooms that she was ‘much improved with a wig’). She also has scenes that were shot in Kempshott Park where Jane attended a New Year’s ball in 1800.

The Wheatsheaf Inn in North Waltham was once a coaching inn to court her until they got married on 26 April 1764, after the death of her father in 1805.

As well as spending time with the family friend Madam Lefroy, who lived at Ashﬁeld, we know that Jane and Cassandra began meeting at the deep-seated dependence on the nearby Drama Society, which led him to offer a room to mark the spot where the family well used to stand, nothing remains at the site of the rectory other than the rural tranquillity of Austen’s earliest texts, the reader glimpses the wit that was perhaps as central an element of Austen’s creativity as her flair for detached, literary anticlimax: ‘Lord Cobham was burnt alive, but I forget what for.’ Even in this, one of these early works, can be viewed online at the British Library. Pages from A History of England or e-mail tourism@winchester.gov.uk

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The 1000-year old yew, which used to house the key in the time of the society of her day.

At St Nicholas Church there is a bronze plaque dedicated to the writer and you can see her elder brother’s grave, along with those of other relatives.

The 1800-year old yew, which used to house the key in the time of the last illness. Her final resting place was in the church of St Nicholas, where she was interred on 18 January 1817.

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WINCHESTER - Her final resting place

Jane Austen was buried in the north aisle of Winchester Cathedral on 25 July 1817. Cassandra remained with her registers as she was the authority on her works. The grave of Jane Austen and Cassandra is located in the north aisle of the church and is marked by a brass plaque with her name and dates of birth and death.

Our Chawton home how much we find already in our mind, and how concerned we are when complete it will all other houses be.

JANE AUSTEN, 1817

Chawton House

Chawton is the home of Jane Austen, whose novel Emma was first published here in 1816. It is now a museum dedicated to her life and works, with exhibits on her life, family, and writing. The Chawton House Library contains the largest collection of Jane Austen's books in the world, along with a walled garden built by Edward Austen, one of her brothers.

Scandal in The White Hart

Jane Austen and Emma Bennet were both involved in a scandal that occurred in Winchester in 1816. A Southwark footman, who was employed at the White Hart pub, was accused of adultery with the wife of one of the regulars. The case was heard in Winchester Diocese Consistory Court and led to a divorce for the couple.