

SUMMARY: The document below is a summary of a letter dated 28 July 1571 from John, Lord St John, in London to Edward Manners (1549–1587), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Rutland, who was then in Paris (according to the *ODNB*, Rutland ‘traveled in France between January and October 1571, sending Burghley his impressions’).

The writer of the letter may have been John Paulet (c.1510 – 4 November 1576), 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess of Winchester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Saint John of Basing, Hampshire, a descendant of Robert de Vere, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Oxford, who in 1571 would still have been styled ‘Lord St John’ as he did not succeed his father as Marquess of Winchester until 10 March 1572. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 302, 310-11.

It is also possible that the writer of the letter was a member of the St John family of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Bedford’s mother, Margaret St John, widow of William Gostwick (d. December 1545), sister of Oliver St John (d. 21 April 1582), 1<sup>st</sup> Lord St John, and daughter of Sir John St John (d. 19 December 1558) of Bletsoe, Bedfordshire, by Margaret Waldegrave, daughter of Sir William Waldegrave (d. 30 June 1527). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 218-21; Vol. III, pp. 465-6; Vol. IV, pp. 283-4; and the pedigree of St John at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationhuntin00camduoft#page/2/mode/2up>

The summary of the letter below is taken from *Historical Manuscripts Commission. Twelfth Report, Appendix, Part IV. The Manuscripts of His Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B., Preserved at Belvoir Castle*, (London: Her Majesty’s Stationery Office, 1888), Vol. I, p. 94, at:

<https://archive.org/details/hists52199677/page/n121/mode/2up>

1571, July 28. Fetter Lane. Th’ Earl of Oxenford hath gotten him a wife – or at the least a wife hath caught him – that is Mrs Anne Cecil, whereunto the Queen hath given her consent, the which hath caused great weeping, wailing and sorrowful cheer of those that hoped to have had that golden day. Thus you may see whilst that some triumph with olive branches, others follow the chariot with willow garlands.

Sir Thomas Stanley and Sir Thomas Gerrard [=Garrat] are committed close prisoners in the Tower for a conspiracy to convey away the Queen of Scots, to the further destruction of the state.