
SUMMARY: The document below summarizes a letter dated 5 April 1582 written from the court by John Farnham, to Roger Manners (c.1536–1607), the third son of Thomas Manners (c.1497–1543), 1st Earl of Rutland, and the uncle of Edward Manners (1549–1587), 3rd Earl of Rutland. The writer of the letter may have been John Farnham (d.1587), one of the Queen’s gentleman-pensioners.

The letter mentions the beauty of Oxford’s future second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612), then one of the Queen’s Maids of Honour.

Two of the other Maids of Honour mentioned in the letter who served with Elizabeth Trentham at court have been identified as Margaret Edgecumbe (1560-1648), the daughter of Piers Edgecumbe of Mount Edgecumbe, Cornwall, and Mary Radcliffe (1550-1617/8), the daughter of Sir Humphrey Radcliffe of Elstow.

The summary 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. 1, p. 134, available online.

Mrs. Trentham is as fair, Mrs. Edgecumbe as modest, Mrs. Radcliffe as comely, and Mrs Garrat [=Fitzgerald?] as jolly as ever.