
SUMMARY: The document below summarizes a letter dated 26 July 1589 written from Winkburn by Elizabeth (nee Charleton) Manners (d.1595), Countess of Rutland, widow of John Manners (d.1588), 4th Earl of Rutland, and mother of Roger Manners (1576-1612), 5th Earl of Rutland, to Bridget (1525/6-1601), Countess of Bedford. The latter was the daughter of John Hussey (1465/6-1537) and Lady Anne Grey, and was thrice married, firstly to Sir Richard Morison (c.1510-1556), secondly to Henry Manners (1526-1563), 2nd Earl of Rutland, and thirdly to Francis Russell (1526/7-1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford.

The letter concerns the Countess of Rutland's daughter, Bridget Manners (d.1604), who had just entered the Queen's service, something the Countess had not expected since the Queen had recently made Oxford's daughter, Elizabeth de Vere (1575-1627) a Maid of Honour.

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, pp. 273-4, available online.

I understand from Mr Roger Manners of the Queen's gracious disposition towards my daughter, Bridget, for receiving her into her service. I did not expect the favour because it pleased the Queen so lately to receive Lady Elizabeth Vere. But as it is the Queen's pleasure, I hope she will behave herself as shall be pleasing. I send £200 towards furnishing her for the place, which is all I can afford now. I hope those that are wise will remember the estate of a fatherless maid, and that you will give her your advice as to what is most needful for her, because I myself am altogether inexperienced in the fashions of the court.