

SUMMARY: The document below summarizes a letter written in January 1574 from Hampton Court by Eleanor Bridges to Edward Manners (1549–1587), 3rd Earl of Rutland. Eleanor Bridges, one of the Queen's Maids of Honour, was the daughter of Edmund Brydges (d.1573), 2nd Baron Chandos, and Dorothy Bray (1529/30–1605), fifth daughter and coheir of Edmund Bray, 1st Baron Bray. The letter announces that Oxford's sister, Mary de Vere (d.1624), has been sworn of the Privy Chamber.

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. I, p. 107 at:

<https://archive.org/details/hists52199677/page/n133/mode/2up>

In HMC Rutland, the letter is tentatively dated January 1576. However the reference to Mary Shelton's marriage dates it to January 1574. See the *ODNB* entry for Mary Shelton:

By January 1574 Mary had married (as his second wife) the gentleman pensioner Sir John Scudamore (1542–1623) of Holme Lacy, Herefordshire ([see under Scudamore]), becoming as a result one of the best-known victims of Elizabeth's bad temper.

The Queen has used Mary Shelton very ill for her marriage. 'She hath dealt liberal both with blows and evil words, and hath not yet granted her consent.' No one ever bought her husband more dearly. Lady Mary de Vere, sister of the Earl of Oxford, is sworn one of the Privy Chamber. The court is as full of malice and spite as when you left.