

PERSONAE



Mary Sidney (1560-1620), Countess Pembroke, mother of William & Philip Herbert to whom the *Shakespeare* First Folio was dedicated. Sister to Philip Sidney and niece to Robert Dudley. Sponsored the *Pembroke* players.



Queen Elizabeth (1533-1603), niece of Mary Boleyn, daughter of Henry VIII the probable father of Mary Boleyn's children, Henry Carey and Catherine Knollys (1524-1569). Were they half-sisters?



Sir William Knollys (1544-1632), Mary Boleyn's grandson, lecherous Comptroller of the Queen's household and guardian to the maid-of-honour, Mary Fitton. He later became the first Earl Banbury.



Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Leveson (c1570-1605), son-in-law of Admiral Charles Howard, Earl Nottingham (husband of Henry Carey's daughter who sponsored the *Admiral's* players).

William Polewhele (c1570-1609), a naval captain who served under Leveson; Mary Fitton's first husband (No image). *Captain III* in of *Sonnet-66*.



William Herbert (1580-1630), *Master W H*, who strumpeted Mary Fitton when he became the third Earl Pembroke in 1601. From 1616, Lord Chamberlain and Chancellor of Oxford University.



Mary Fitton (1578-1642), *the Dark Lady*, who had an affair with William Herbert, was Richard Leveson's mistress, married William Polewhele, and probably was coercively raped by William Knollys.

Richard Barnfield (1574-1620), a (gay) poet, close friend of Mary Fitton and a neighbour to Richard Leveson (no image).



Mary Sidney Wroth (1587-1652), niece to Mary Sidney, cousin to William Herbert with whom she had two bastard children, the *Rival Poet* of the *Sonnets*, and who recorded the Herbert-Fitton love-affair in her *Countess of Montgomery's Urania* and the play, *Love's Victory*.