

5. Philip Lindsay, *On some Bones in Westminster Abbey* (1934), pp. 29-30, 35.
6. Tanner and Wright, p. 18.
7. Lyne-Pirkis, transcript pp. 9-10.
8. Tanner and Wright, p. 16.
9. Lyne-Pirkis, transcript p. 4; P. M. Kendall, *Richard III* (1955), pp. 497-8.
10. Kendall, p. 497.
11. Lindsay, p. 35.
12. Lyne-Pirkis, transcript, p. 6.
13. Lyne-Pirkis, transcript, pp. 10-11.
14. In the best possible conditions, e.g. see *Science and Archaeology*, edited by D. Brothwell and E. Higgs (1969), p. 47.
15. *Notes and Queries*, 7th Series, Vol. 8 (1889), pp. 361, 497.
16. Cited by Kendall, p. 495.

COATS OF ARMS OF SOME RICARDIAN CONTEMPORARIES

LAWRENCE T. GREENSMITH

BATH AND GARTER

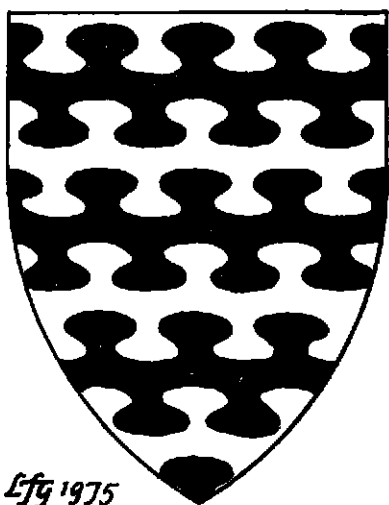
Sir Walter Blount, later Lord Mountjoy (d. 1474)

Sir Reginald Bray (d. 1503)

EXCEPT THAT their lives overlapped in Richard's time (perhaps by not much, but no one seems to know), that both were Knights of the Bath and then of the Garter, and that their names began with the same letter of the alphabet, these men had nothing at all in common. Blount was a Yorkist and Bray a Lancastrian. Blount died eleven years before Bosworth and Bray survived the battle by eighteen years.

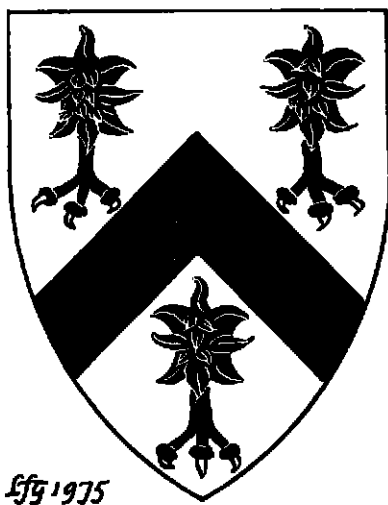
Sir Walter BLOUNT was grandson of that Sir Walter who was a contemporary of the Black Prince and John of Gaunt. It was he who, with another, led troops to intercept the retreating Clifford (*Ricardian* 48) at Castleford, shortly before Towton where Clifford was killed. That was the battle which established King Edward IV on the throne. The day before the Coronation, King Edward created thirty Knights of the Bath: Blount was one of them. Not long afterwards he was created Baron Mountjoy and Knight of the Garter.

His arms, *barry nebuly of 8, gold and black*, were not unlike those of Lovell (*Ricardian* 43), except that the latter had *red* instead of *black* and only 6 pieces. *Nebuly* is not simply a form of *wavy*, it is something quite different. Just as *wavy* indicates the waviness of the sea (and when *blue and silver* often represents any form of water, salt or fresh) so *nebuly* (as a Latinist will know) stands for the often more decorative irregularity of the edges of clouds. There is, however, nothing nebulous about the drawing of it: it is very distinctive. The arms are still used by a Baronet.



1795

BLOUNT



1795

BRAY

Sir Reginald BRAY had been Steward to Sir Henry Stafford, the second husband of Margaret Beaufort. He had to do with the marriage of her son Henry Tudor to Elizabeth of York.

He was a shrewd and much trusted man of affairs and was the go-between amongst Margaret, Morton and Buckingham (another Stafford) at the time of the unsuccessful rebellion. Like so many others, he was pardoned by King Richard and was not even attainted. Still a servant of Margaret (now a Stanley), he kept in touch with Richmond's supporters in England, helping to rally them for the invasion and sending useful money to Richmond. At Bosworth, he was in attendance on the Tudor, and it was he who found Richard's crown in a thornbush and passed it on to Stanley. He was created Knight of the Bath at Henry's coronation and later Knight of the Garter, holding several high offices not only in connection with the Duchy of Lancaster.

Bray was also an architect and designed improvements at St George's, Windsor; he is also credited with designing the Henry VII Chapel at Westminster.

The arms were: *silver, a chevron between three eagle's legs erased at the cuisse all black*. They still exist but now the eagle's talons have become red (one source says that they always were).

Parts of birds or beasts are not rare in heraldry. *Cuisse* (also spelt *quise*) indicates the thigh, the place of severance. In another context, *cuisse* also means thigh-armour.

Burke, in his *Armory*, quotes a pretty story that Sir Reginald added to his arms *a thornbush with a crown in the middle*. Perhaps, but you can wait until you hear the whereabouts of a representation of it before you need believe it.