**Sir Reginald Bray**

A member of the Gentry. By the late 15th Century, these were normally great landowners. The Gentry sought knighthoods as confirmation of social status. It was assumed that those with status would assist the administration of their localities. According to John Guy, peers and knights “formed a homogenous elite with a common outlook derived from their substantial interest as landowners.”

Bray had worked for Henry’s mother, Elizabeth of York. He came to Henry’s attention when it became clear that he was highly skilled in managing the most valuable of the King’s estates.

Sir Reginald Bray was one of the most important members partly because he had helped Henry raise funds for the Battle of Bosworth. Most trusted advisor of Henry VII as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (equivalent of a Prime Minister). Bray worked with Heron to make the king’s estates as financially efficient as possible.

Roles in the Crown’s service

* Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (senior state or official of the territory of Lancaster).
* English courtier (Advisor to the King).
* Architect of the Henry VII Lady Chapel in Westminster Abbey.
* Led the Council Learned in Law

Thomas Penn described him as the “king’s chief executive” and was the “more powerful than most nobles.”

Land he owned

* Eaton
* Houghton Regis
* Tottenhoe

He wasn’t given any grants from the King because he wanted to alienate royal lands and ensure nobles didn’t become too powerful.