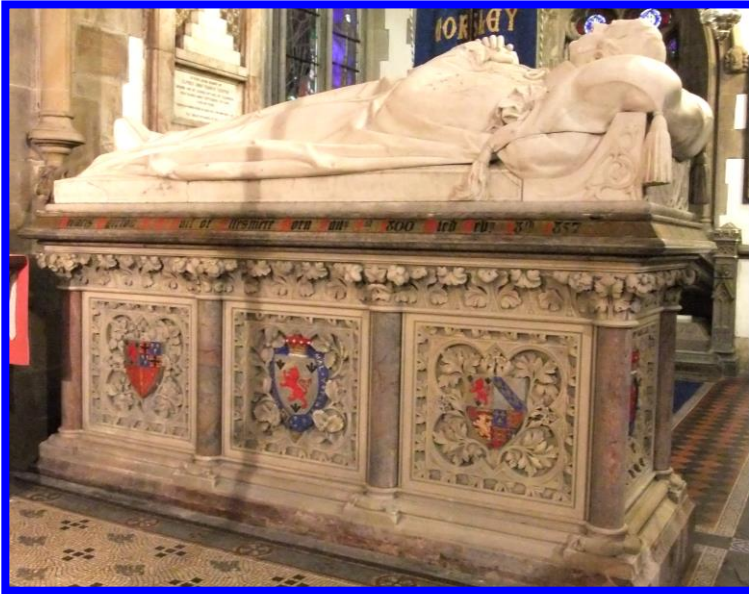


The MEMORIAL Tomb - the 1st Earl

Scott was commissioned by Ellesmere's eldest son, who then became the second Earl, to design a memorial to his father. The Earl (who died on 18 February 1857) was buried in a vault in St.



Mark's below the family chapel (on 26 February), which was extended so that its east wall was level with the east wall of the chancel, and Scott placed a fine table-tomb in a new arch between the chancel and the chapel. The memorial takes the form of a recumbent figure of the Earl in the robes of the Order of the Garter and was carved by Matthew Noble (1817-1876) in white marble. The base is a highly decorative solid chest in Caen stone, by Philip. When it first stood at the east end of the chapel, it was surrounded by an ironwork screen, which separated the chapel from the chancel. This is considered to have been the work of Francis Skidmore (1816-

1896), who was another of Scott's favourite craftsmen at that time. The Ellesmere Chapel is said to have been 'as impressive an example of Victorian craftsmanship of that character as could be found anywhere'.

The tomb today is resplendent; but in the 1950s it was blackened and covered in soot, the result of 100 years of industry in the area. However, James Attwood, who surveyed the restoration of the church in that decade, wrote the following in his extensive report:

'Canon Lamont asked me if it was possible to do something about the Earl's tomb. It looked all so grey and grimed with dirt. I told him I would restore it and that would be my contribution. I was thinking about a couple of weeks work to thoroughly clean it whilst waiting for the windows and ended up taking over a month. But I did put a lot of colour into the job, I brought the recumbent figure back to its original gleaming whiteness and was astonished to find the top of the base and its plinth were in coloured marble. The abrasions and knocks in the foliage features were recut. When the lights were turned on, the Chancel had an air of brightness and warmth. After morning service on Sunday after completion and the dust sheets removed, Mr. and Mrs. Willink came especially to thank me. Most of the congregation came this day to look after the service. It was a happy day for everyone, and I was happy because the efforts of my labours were seen in the people's smiling faces. Jesse York in his verger's robe, squeezed my arm and said "There you are. Tha sees what tha can do." Dear kind, lovable old Jesse. My heart warmed to him as he lapsed into dialect.

This then concluded my work at Worsley Parish Church.'

Matthew Noble was a Carver of numerous monumental figures and busts including work memorializing Victorian era royalty and statesmen, such as the Wellington Monument in Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester; the statue of Queen Victoria in Peel Park, Salford; the statue of Robert Peel in Parliament Square, London; and the Albert memorial, Manchester - 1867 - before the town hall was built – as well as statues and memorials in Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral.