

MONUMENTS TO THE FIRST TWO BISHOPS OF SOUTHWELL

By DRP, December 2012

Situated to the south of the Quire altar the monument to the First Bishop of Southwell, George Ridding D.D. is a full size statue in bronze of the Bishop at prayer by Frederick William Pomeroy. It was unveiled by the Duke of Portland in 1907.

Frederick William Pomeroy was born on 9th October 1856 in Lambeth the son of Charles Henry Pomeroy and his second wife Mary. Charles was a stone mason by trade. On leaving school Frederick was apprenticed to a firm of architectural carvers and from c1877 to 1880 he studied at the London Technical Art College, Lambeth.

From 1881 to 1885 Frederick studied at the R.A. Schools winning a travelling scholarship in 1885 which enabled him to study under Antonin Marcié in Paris, he later went on to Rome to study. He was elected A.R.A. in 1906 and R.A. in 1917. Amongst his works in London is the figure of *Lady Justice* standing above the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey) and the statue of William Ewart Gladstone in the Houses of Parliament.

In 1913 Frederick married Dorothy Mary Ellen Cloughlan by whom he had two sons, Frederick and Maurice. He died on 26th May 1924 at Cliftonville, Margate, Kent.

Situated in the north transept the monument to the Second Bishop of Southwell Sir Edwyn Hoskyns D.D. is in the form of a bronze bust by Sir William Reynolds-Stephens. It is signed by the artist along the bottom edge and dated 1927.

William Ernest Reynolds Stephens was born in Detroit, Michigan U.S.A. on 6 August 1862 the son of British parents William Comben Stephens and his wife Jessie Isabella. William was educated in Blackheath and the Royal Academy Schools in London from 1884 to 1887 winning prizes in both painting and sculpture. He exhibited at the R.A between 1886 and 1942 but concentrated on sculpture from 1894. He also worked as a designer making items such as furniture, light shades, fireplaces and wall decorations in the Art Nouveau style. Sir William was President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors from 1921 to 1933. William changed his name by deed poll in 1890. He hyphenated his last two names thus changing his surname from Stephens to Reynolds-Stephens.

He married Annie daughter of Thomas Ridpath in 1891 and they lived in St John's Wood, London. William was knighted in 1931. He died at Tunbridge Wells, Kent on 23 February 1943 and was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium. His wife Annie Reynolds-Stephens was a skilled embroiderer who worked many of her husband's designs; she died in 1949.