

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



THE BROWNE MAUSOLEUM AT MAINHAM

This mausoleum was built by Stephen Browne in 1743 who erected it just a couple of feet outside the graveyard at Mainham. Browne wanted to build it in or adjoining the church nearby but quarreled with the Protestant Rector of Clane, the Rev. John Daniel who wanted to charge Browne 5 Guineas for the privilege of doing so. Browne refused to pay the money and built the mausoleum on his own land just several feet outside the graveyard wall. The stone slab over the entrance on the outside tells the story.

“The within monument was prepared by the direction of Stephen Browne, Esq., the day it bears date, which he designed putting up in the opposite church, or adjoining to it, and said Browne applied several times to his parish minister, the Revd. John Daniel, for his consent, which he refused him unless said Browne would give him five guineas for so doing. A gentleman whose character is remarkably well known, as well as his behaviour on several occasions to said Browne, and the only clergyman in the diocese whose passion would prevent their church to be embellished or enlarged, and to deprive themselves and their successors from the burial fees; and he has been the occasion of obliging said Browne to erect said monument here on his own estate of inheritance, which said Browne thinks proper to insert here to show it was not by choice he did it.

May the 1st 1743.”