

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE
CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



THE WOGAN TOMB

The family tomb of the Wogans of Rathcoffey, Co. Kildare is located in the graveyard of the Abbey off the Main Street in Clane. It is an altar tomb surmounted by three stone plaques. The uppermost plaque bears a plain shield and the date 1618. The next plaque bears the date 1716 and contains the arms of Wogan and those of O'Neill. This refers to the marriage of Nicholas Wogan, who was then living at Rathcoffey, to Rose, the daughter and heiress of Sir Neill O'Neill of Killileagh, Co Antrim. The lowest plaque is perhaps the most interesting. It bears the following inscription in raised letters:

“Here lieth intombed the body of William Wogan of Rathcoffie Esquire who deceased the last day of December in Anno Domini 1616 being of the adge of XXVII years.”

On the front of the altar there are representations of six human figures, three males and three females. The males are on the left. Over each are the initials; NW, IW, WW, EW, MW, IW. These refer to his children. Unfortunately, the sculptor left the tomb unfinished as only one of the figures, a female, is completed, the rest are only blocked out.