

SAUMAREZ DUBOURDIEU



WHO WAS THE REVEREND DUBOURDIEU?

The Reverend Saumarez Dubourdieu (1717-1812) was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and the University of Edinburgh. He was pastor of the French Church in Lisburn, Vicar of Glenavy and In 1768 he was appointed Curate in perpetuity of Lambeg Parish Church. He died in 1812 and was buried in Lambeg.

THE DUBOURDIEU MEMORIAL BEFORE RESTORATION

Dubourdieu opened a classical school in Bow Street, Lisburn on 2 August 1756. The curriculum offered 'a little Latin, Geography, the Globe, Heraldry, Greek, Latin and French history, music if they have a voice and Drawing, which is a science very much in evidence nowadays'. He was school master for over 50 years and after his death some former students erected this memorial in his honour. The marble memorial is made up of a bust, a wall tablet and sarcophagus. The inscription on the sarcophagus, translated from latin, reads:

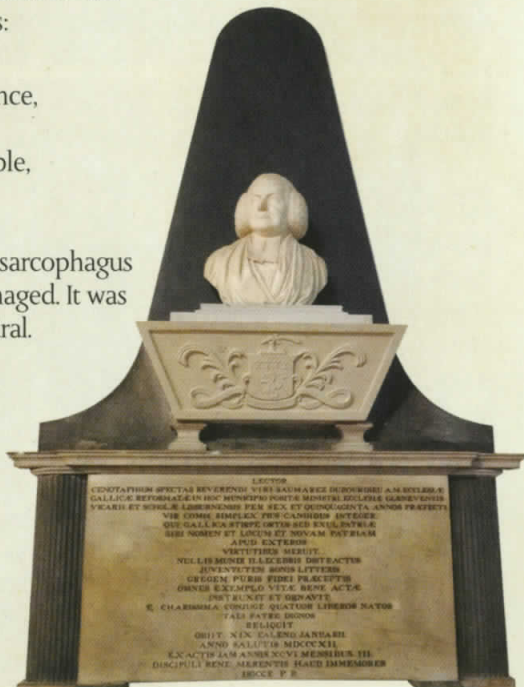
His Scholars
In graceful remembrance,
Of his virtues,
Have caused this marble,
To be erected

In 1987 the bust fell, shattering the small sarcophagus beneath it, but fortunately it was not damaged. It was later moved to a windowsill in the cathedral.

DURING RESTORATION

While the bust was being conserved in London, and a new sarcophagus was being constructed, the opportunity was given to the museum to have a cast made to enhance its Dubourdieu collection.

Following restoration, the bust has been returned to its original position in the cathedral.



The Dubourdieu Monument

BEFORE



AFTER



Saumarez Dubourdieu (1717 – 1812) was the only son of Jean Armand Dubourdieu (1683 – 1723) and Charlotte Massey, Countess D'Esponage. Jean Armand had been brought to England by his widowed mother, who had travelled through Switzerland with her infant son to escape from the persecution of the Huguenots in France. Jean Armand trained for the Church and became Minister of the Savoy church in London.

Saumarez was sent to Dublin where he was brought up by his grandmother. He studied classics at Trinity College and in 1756 he moved to Lisburn and opened a classical school in Bow Street. He was master of the school for 56 years and was held in such high esteem that in 1814 the *Belfast Monthly Magazine* contained the following report:

“A monument has now been erected, in the Parish Church of Lisburn, in the memory of that excellent man, the Rev. Saumarez Dubourdieu, at the expense of some gentlemen educated under him. It has been executed, in a superior style, by Mr. John Smyth, of Montgomery Street, Dublin. The following inscription appears on a tablet, under an elegant bust, affording a good likeness of the original. The bust is of the purest white marble, and stands on a handsome sarcophagus, before a beautiful marble pyramid.

READER

This monument is sacred to the memory of the Rev. Saumarez Dubourdieu, A M, Minister of the French Protestant Church of this town, Vicar of the Parish of Glenavy, and fifty six years master of the Classical School of Lisburn.

In manners he was courteous and unaffected,
In conduct pious, candid, and of strict integrity,
Descended from French parentage,
Who had been forced from the land of their nativity,
By religious persecution,
He merited and obtained for himself,
A name, a habitation and a country,



The marble bust of Saumarez Dubourdieu