

# LOUIS CROMMELIN

## WHO WAS LOUIS CROMMELIN?

Thousands of Huguenots left France in the seventeenth century to escape religious persecution, Louis Crommelin, a French Huguenot was one of these refugees. In 1698 the government of William III appointed him as Overseer of the Royal Linen Manufacture in Ireland to assist with the development of the industry. Crommelin settled in Lisburn with a small colony of around seventy Huguenots. This settlement included the establishment of a Huguenot church on Castle Street.



*Louis Crommelin  
(1652-1727)  
ILC&LM*

Crommelin's career in Ireland coincided with a boom in linen exports. Subsequently, later generations largely credited him with establishing the linen trade. Although, today, his role is understood to be much less significant, his enterprise and reputation brought great prestige to Lisburn as a centre of the industry.



*Blue Plaque No. 8421  
in Castle Street, Lisburn,  
marking the site of the  
Huguenot Church*

## THE CROMMELIN GRAVESTONE – BEFORE RESTORATION

The Crommelin gravestone and tomb was in a poor condition as a result of water penetration and as a consequence of well intentioned, but inappropriate, repairs carried out in the 1960s. The structure consists of slate, white sandstone (from the Newtownards area) and Lagan Valley red sandstone, quarried locally. The surrounding metal railing also required repairs and a bronze plaque, installed in the 1960s, was missing.





Inappropriate restoration work in the 1960s used cement instead of lime mortar. Cement mortar is visibly different in colour and texture from lime mortar, but more importantly cement traps moisture, retaining water within the structure.

It took six months to carry out structural repairs, including rebuilding the base, repairing the stone work, repointing, re-rendering lime mortar and replacing the railings.

American relatives of the Crommelin family commissioned a new bronze plaque of Louis Crommelin to be fitted to the railings on the memorial.

## DURING RESTORATION



## ...AND AFTER



Crommelin is buried alongside his wife Anne (d.1755), only son Louis (d.1711) and daughter Mary Anne (d.1715) - who married Captain De Berniere. The grave also contains Crommelin's brother Samuel Louis (1657-1715), his eldest son Samuel Louis (1679-1749) and Nicholas De la Cherois (1649-1702), his wife Marie Madeline Crommelin (Louis' sister), and their descendants.