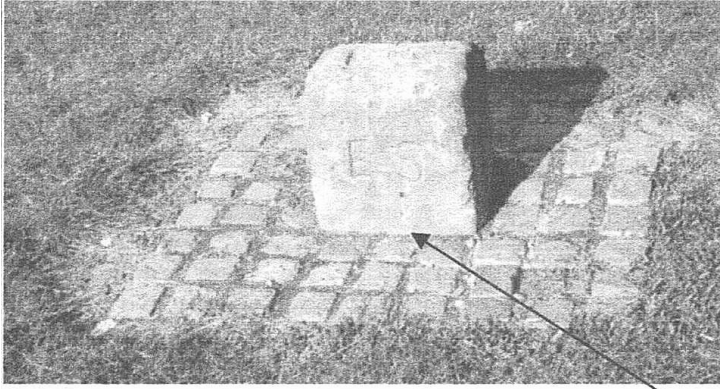


Enoch Stone



This memorial stone can be seen on Derby Road, Chaddesden at the corner of Oregon Way. The stone was erected by the family of Enoch Stone to mark the place where he was murdered on the night of Monday 23rd June 1856.

Enoch Stone, known to his friends as Knocky, was a native of Spondon. He was employed as a glove maker and was a regular church goer and organ blower at Spondon Church. He was not very mobile being of small stature and suffering from paralysis.

On 23rd June 1856, he left his Spondon home to walk to Derby to collect his son's clothes for washing, his son worked in service at Derby. After collecting his son's clothes, he began his journey home, stopping at the Plough Inn on Nottingham Road to see his friends and to rest and have a drink and sandwich.

He then set off sober in the clear moonlit night towards Spondon along Nottingham Road. Before Enoch reached Spondon he was set upon, robbed and attacked. His skull was spilt from ear to ear. All this happened at about 11:30pm. Many people passed by him lying in the hedge and came to the conclusion that he was drunk.

However two coachmen travelling to Derby saw a bundle of rags lying in the road and stopped to investigate. They found Enoch bleeding to death in the hedgerow, he was alive but unconscious.

Enoch was looked after throughout the night by Dr James Cade (owner and resident of the Homestead) but he died at 6am the next morning. He had never regained consciousness. On 1st July reward notices offering £120 for information leading to the assailants capture were displayed, the Government offering £100 and Spondon Parishioners the remaining £20.

His inquest was held at the Malt Shovel Inn, Spondon, on 21st July, with Sir Henry Wilmot of Chaddesden Hall presiding as the magistrate. The jury returned a verdict of murder by persons unknown and the case was closed.

There is no record of the murderer being brought to justice, but Enoch will continue to be remembered through the stone and a nearby cul-de-sac, which is named Enoch Stone Drive.

Tony Bowler

