

Stabbers Bridge

4 Feb 1873

PC James Green (.b. 1836 .D. 24 Feb 1873) was murdered while on duty and his body was dumped in the Trent and Mersey Canal near Elworth.

He was the first Cheshire officer to be killed on duty and is now buried at St Peter's Church along with his wife Ann.

A bridge in Moston is known as "Stabbers Bridge" after the event.

Born in Handbridge, Chester James Green had been a member of the Cheshire Force for six years and was stationed at Bradwall near Sandbach. It was while he was on plain clothes duty observing a James Buckley a farm worker, known larcenist and petty pilferer of Moss Green near Elworth that PC Green was attacked and dumped in the canal at Moss Bridge (Oakwood Lane / Moss Lane).

Buckley was arrested by Superintendent Rowbottom who found him working on his farm with a bruised forehead, face, a lacerated nose and two black eyes which the criminal put down to a branch falling on him while he was pruning the tree.

At his trial evidence of tools including a garden fork were presented with blood stains on them which specialists were unable to say had human blood on them and Buckley said they were in fact pig's blood.

After a 10-minute deliberation, the jury acquitted Buckley of the murder, a clear case of injustice when a guilty man is set free due to a lack of evidence.