

OWEN CRAWFORD

The photograph which has a sign for Hebble Lane is of particular significance to me.

The old quarry is behind this wall. They used to quarry the flagstones for building. It was the Town rubbish dump for many years and one of the ventilation pipes to vent methane is visible.

Livingstone Thwaites was convicted of the murder of Beatrice Cooke 31 and sentenced to death but reprieved. On 21 October 1909 he stabbed her to death on a tip after they had been out drinking in a pub. It was thought that Livingstone Thwaites then took Beatrice Cooke to the top of a steep slope and then throttled her and threw her over and then went down the slope and stabbed her in the neck with his pocket knife. There were footmarks as of a struggle but no blood at the top of the slope, signs of a body having rolled down the slope and deep footmarks on the slope as of a man going down and copious blood at the bottom where her body was found.

Livingstone Thwaites was judged to be not fully responsible for his actions and his death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He was imprisoned in HMP Birmingham.

For the full story: <http://www.blackcalendar.nl/c/7842/Livingstone%20Thwaites>

Beatrice may not have been perfect but she did not deserve to be murdered and left in a rubbish tip. Still so many women suffer at the hands of violent partners. As I pass this place I think of the violence of men towards women, then and now.
