

c/o CAIN Project,
Aberfoyle House,
University of Ulster,
Northland Road,
Derry, BT48 7JA.

30 July 2008.

Dear Jeff,

Martin Melaugh sent me a copy of your second Email dated 26 June 2008, about the deaths of Samuel McCleave, Frederick Davis, Francis Benson and Anthony McCleave.

The death of Samuel McCleave is included in the Index of Deaths, because in "Political Murder in Northern Ireland" by Martin Dillon and Denis Lehane, Penguin Books (1973), they state that Samuel McCleave was probably killed in a sectarian attack carried out by a loyalist paramilitary group. I included Frederick Davis in the Index of Deaths because he was from the protestant/unionist community and his body was found in Short Strand, a catholic/nationalist area of the city, and I also thought the likely victim of a sectarian attack.

At the inquest into the death of Francis Benson, held on 2 May 1974, a member of the RUC stated that they did not believe he was a member of any organisation, and that his death was the result of a personal matter. Incidentally he was found stabbed to death in a derelict building in Stewart Street, Markets, Belfast. I am also aware that he was charged with the murder of Frederick Davis, but this charge was dropped shortly before his death.

With regards to the killing of Anthony McCleave, you provide no information about who might have killed him, or why. I think he could have been the victim of casual street violence that was not politically motivated.

Looking again at these killings, there probably is a link between the deaths of Samuel McCleave, Frederick Davis and Francis Benson, and quite possibly Anthony McCleave, despite the six year delay. Maybe all four should be included in the Index of Deaths, then again, maybe none of them should be included because they could all have been the result of some personal feud, and not politically motivated.

Anyway, I would be reluctant to change the website unless more concrete information comes into the public domain about any of these deaths. It is over 30 years since Samuel McCleave, Frederick Davis and Francis Benson were killed, sadly I think it is unlikely we will ever know who killed them and why.

Yours faithfully,

M. Sutton

~~Malcolm Sutton.~~