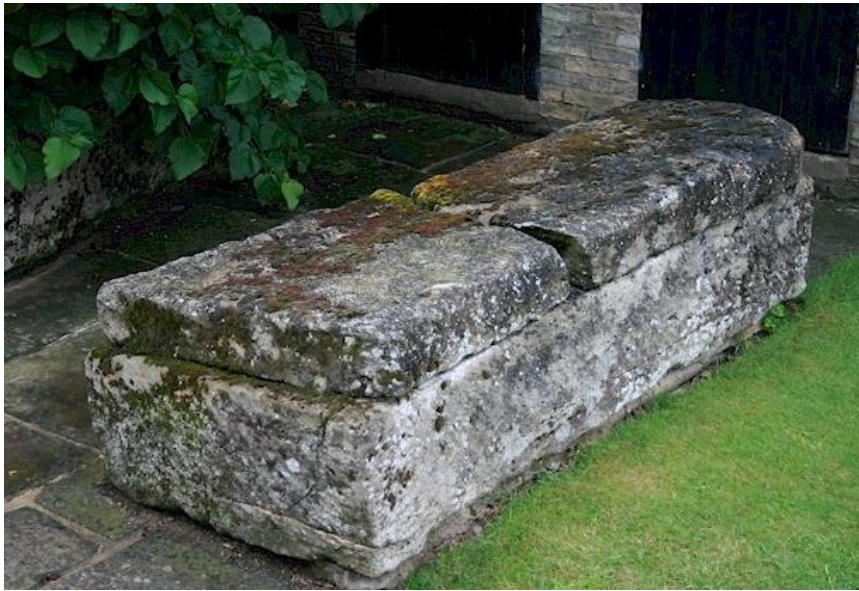


Manorfield Detectives.



At some point in the late 18th century, a Roman stone coffin, possibly similar to this one above was found in Stoney Stanton. A Roman lead coffin was found in the late 19th century, which may have been similar to the image below, and a further stone coffin was found in 1905. All three were discovered during quarrying work in the village.

Lead is a soft metal, which can be moulded into shapes for different purposes. There is decoration on the image below but there is no written detail for the lead coffin found in Stoney Stanton, it may have been decorated or plain.



The Leicestershire Museums Service consider that the quarry was likely to have been what is now Stoney Cove, but would at the time have been two separate quarries- Lanes's Hill and Top Pit.

It is also assumed that they all came from the same site, meaning there was possibly once a small scale Roman cemetery, and therefore some kind of Roman settlement here in Stoney Stanton.

This isn't a surprise as we know that the quern stone found (Task 9) was Late Iron Age or Early Roman, suggesting there was some kind of a small settlement here then, because a quern is a domestic artefact. (Iron Age - 800BCE - 43CE).

One of those stone coffins found is mentioned in A History and Antiquities of Leicestershire, by John Nichols. This book was published in 1811 and tells us -

'on this hill, some years ago, a stone coffin was found, which was taken up and buried in the church-yard on the south side of the chancel, about four feet from the wall'

The hill mentioned was Mill Hill, the same as featured in History Detectives Task 22.

It is indeed, just behind the present day Stoney Cove, which used to be two separate quarries before it was blasted into one.

Here are some links for you to find out more about Roman Britain.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwmpfg8>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtf34j/articles/ztqg4wx>

<https://www.historyforkids.net/ancient-rome.html>