

THE STORY OF PINHAW MOOR



Up until 1816, Pinhaw Moor was used as a Beacon Hill. On the summit stood a hut, the remains of which can still be seen. In this shelter the beacon guards kept watch and near the hut was a stout pole which upheld a tar barrel filled with combustible materials. In 1805 the chief beacon guard was a man called Robert Wilson. He and his two helpers had to keep a sharp lookout, especially to the beacon hill of Bouldsworth, beyond Colne. An attack upon the English coast was expected for they had heard that Buonaparte had made preparations for an invasion of this country. In the winter of 1805 there was a great snowstorm which raged over the whole country. The sky was dark and the snow fell for days, keeping the beacon guards prisoners. Their milk and provisions were at last exhausted and Robert Wilson declared that he was going to cross the moor to Moor Side Farm for supplies. The other men tried to dissuade him, without success. He took his bag and milk can and stepped out into the swirling snow. His companions waited in vain for his return. When the storm abated the men made their way into the village and a search party was organised. Robert Wilson's body was found about four hundred yards from the hut. On the spot where he perished a stone was erected by his friends, on which these words were engraved : "Here was found dead the body of Robert Wilson, one of the beacon guards, who died January 29, 1805, aged 59 years.". The stone is still there.