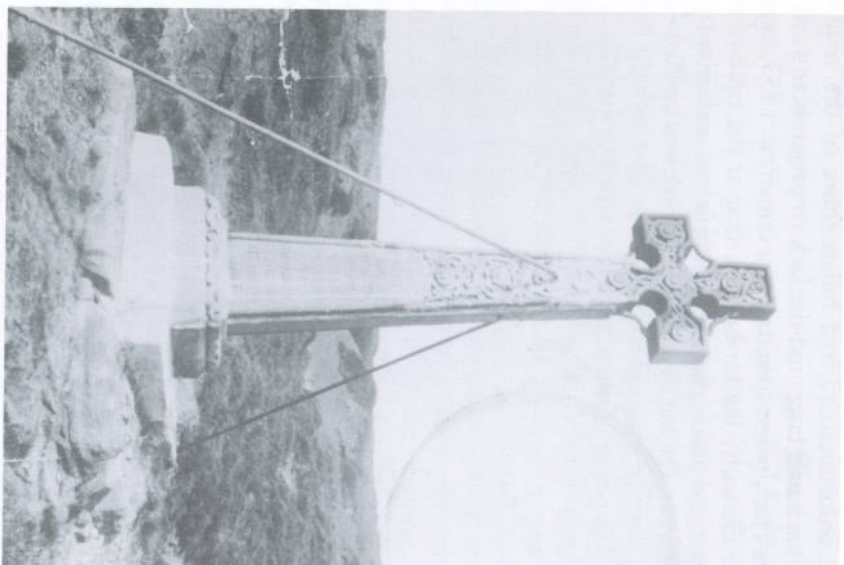




James Platt's Monument, Saddleworth Moor.

commissioned to be replaced with a new house, Ashway Gap House, a property of considerable size partly in the castellated style. Had not a tragedy occurred this estate might have remained their country seat. Shortly after the opening of the grouse season in August 1857 James Platt was shot and mortally wounded when one of the guns was accidentally discharged as the party crossed a gully on the high hills, known as Ashway Moss, above the House, he was only 33. James Platt was buried in the new cemetery at Chadderton which had only been opened on the first day that of August. Ironically, he had been a member of the Board which had overseen the cemetery's preparation and opening. On the fatal spot, itself, a monument was erected in his memory which throughout the years, the Company kept in repair against the ravages of the weather on that exposed spot. The monument carries the inscription: "Here by the accidental discharge of a

gun James Platt MP for Oldham lost his life 27 August 1857". John Platt came to an arrangement with his sister-in-law (who was only to survive James by five years) under which he obtained from her James' share in the Company, his own share in the Ashway Gap estate constituting part payment for such, with the result, for all effective purposes, John Platt became the sole owner of Platt Brothers & Company.