

The Devil's Hoofprint

Sometime back in the Early Middle Ages a titanic battle was fought between good and evil on the island. It was said that the Devil himself had taken up residence here. A Christian Saint journeyed to Guernsey to drive him out; his name is lost but it could even have been St. Sampson.

The Devil and the Saint battled one another back and forth across the island, but ultimately their struggle took them to the northernmost point.

Overlooking Fontenelle Bay there is still the remains of a small granite hillock. On the seaward side there is a large granite boulder that sits half-buried in the ground. Local folklore says that it was here that the Devil took his final stand.

In an epic conclusion to this fight between good and evil, fire and brimstone were fought with faith and light. All around the furze and ferns were burnt to ash and the earth scorched black.

Finally, good triumphed over evil and the Saint forced the Devil to flee the island. The King of Hell slammed one great, burning cloven-hoof down onto the stone and leapt into the air and away across the sea to the north.

To this day, you can still find the stone and see quite clearly the deep impression of a large cloven hoof in the rock. The stone was given the name *Le Pid du Boeuf* or The Ox's Foot.



Artwork by David Wyatt. © Guernsey Museums & Art Gallery

Story by Guernsey Museums, adapted from Marie de Garis' *Folklore of Guernsey*