



Dark Tales of the Peaks

Welcome to your Digital Tour Companion.

This collection of images has been created to accompany today's walk.

Each chapter reveals another true story from the villages of Eyam and Stoney Middleton.

A woman in an 18th-century dress stands on a rocky cliff edge, looking out over a deep, forested valley. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The woman is wearing a blue dress with a white apron and a white bonnet. The valley below is filled with dense green trees and a winding river. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Hannah Baddeley — Lovers' Leap

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In an eighteenth-century village, reputation shaped everything. After being rejected, Hannah Baddeley faced public scrutiny and limited prospects. She came here believing there was no way forward. She jumped — and survived.

A man and a woman are walking away from the viewer down a dirt path. The man is on the left, wearing a dark vest over a white shirt and dark trousers, with a brown bag slung over his shoulder. The woman is on the right, wearing a dark green top and a long, light-colored skirt. They are looking towards a small village with a church spire in the distance, nestled in a valley. The sky is a mix of purple, pink, and orange, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The path is flanked by dense trees and foliage.

Allen & Clara

Travelling together to begin a new life, Allen and Clara carried the money they needed to marry. They stopped at an inn in Stoney Middleton. Their presence—and what they carried—was quickly noticed. By morning, both were dead. Their money had vanished.



The Scottish Peddler

A licensed Scottish peddler travelled between villages selling small goods. He reported unlicensed traders. In a small community, that made him known — and unwelcome. He was later killed. His body was hidden in limestone.



St Martins Church

One of only two octagonal-naved churches in England, St Martin's has watched over Stoney Middleton for centuries. It witnessed joy and sorrow, prosperity and hardship—and darker days when fear, illness and loss touched almost every family.



The Roman Bath House

They soaked in the warm waters, exchanged stories and listened to rumours carried on the steam.
Some were true—others became legend.



Bootmaking

Before factories and mass-production, every pair of boots began in the hands of a skilled craftsman. Leather was cut, stitched and shaped by hand, creating sturdy footwear for quarrymen, farmers and travellers who depended on them every day.



The Toll House

Everyone who passed through the valley knew this building. Here, travellers paid for the right to continue their journey, while news, rumours and stories flowed in both directions. Some brought opportunity and prosperity. Others carried consequences that would be felt for generations.



Emmott Sydall & Rowland Torre

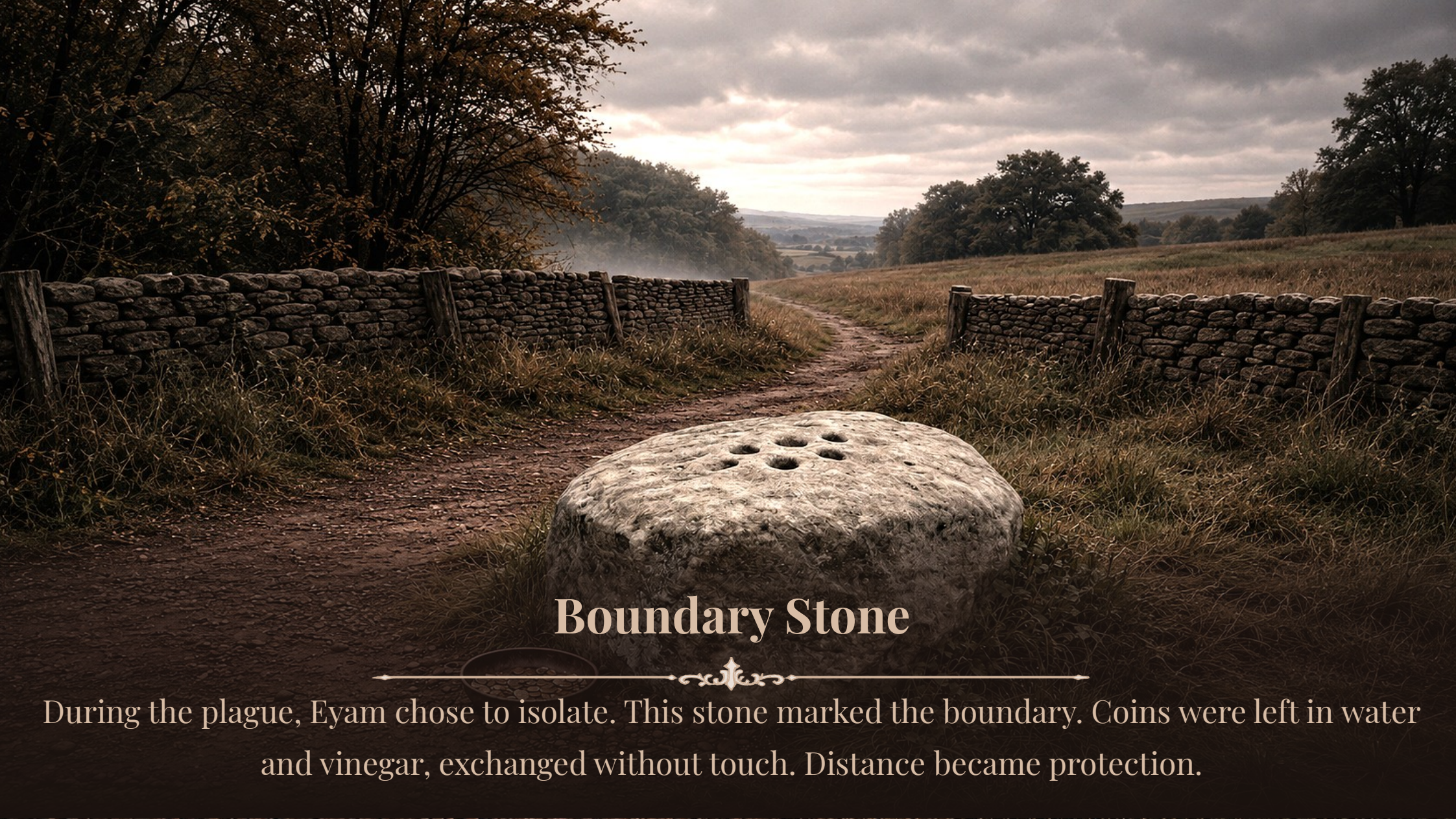
During the plague in Eyam, Emmott Sydall remained within the village while Rowland Torre stayed outside the boundary. They met at a distance, able to see one another, but not touch.

Emmott later died of the disease. Rowland never married.



Eyam—Plague Village

In 1665, a parcel of cloth carrying infected fleas brought the plague to Eyam. To protect neighbouring communities, they isolated themselves from the outside world. Many would never leave the village again, but their sacrifice helped prevent the plague spreading across the Peak District.



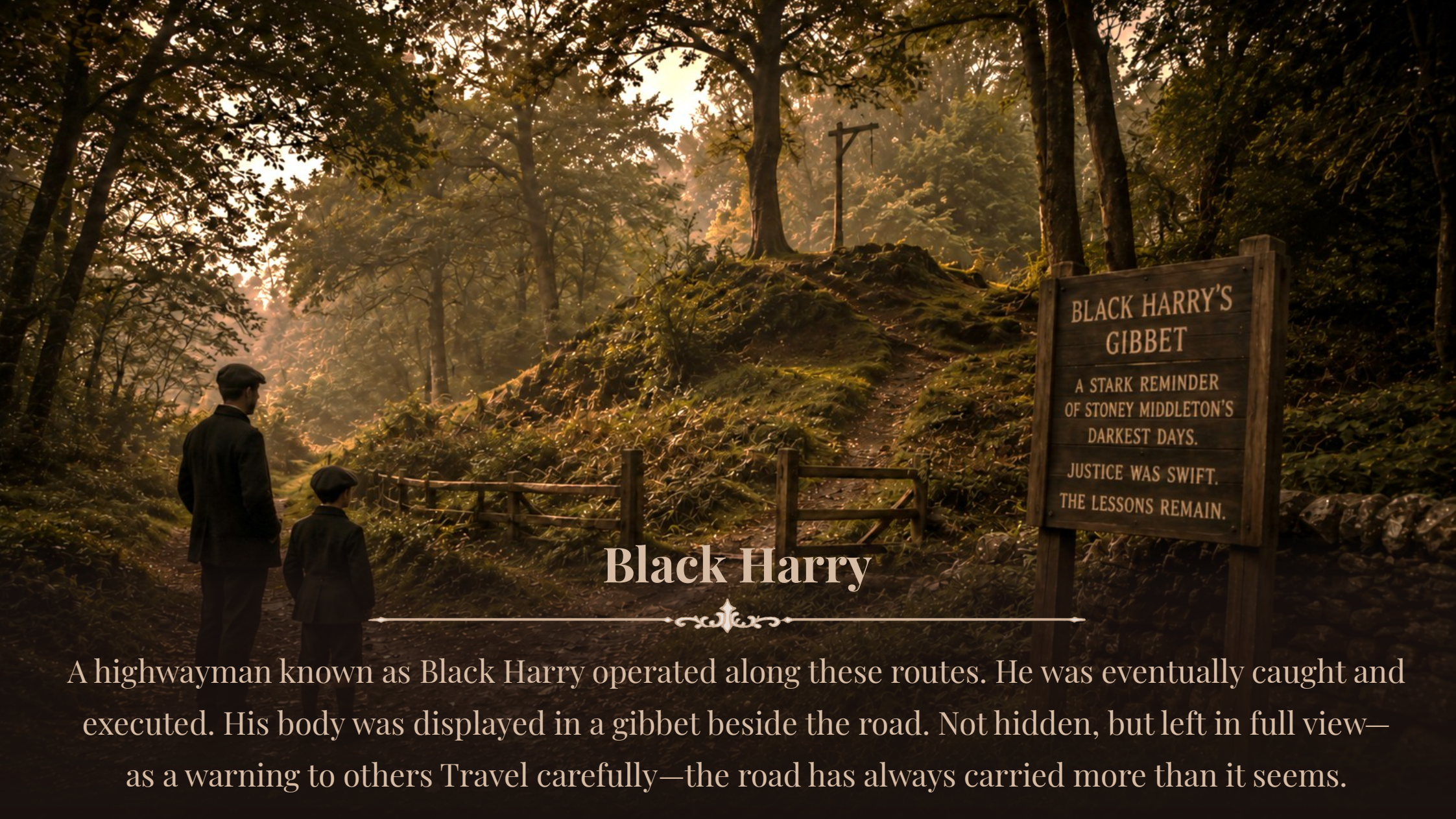
Boundary Stone

During the plague, Eyam chose to isolate. This stone marked the boundary. Coins were left in water and vinegar, exchanged without touch. Distance became protection.



Carlswalk Cavern

When the Scottish peddler was murdered for the money he carried, his killers needed somewhere to hide their crime. His body was dragged to this remote cavern and concealed among the rocks. For a time, the truth lay hidden in the darkness—but secrets have a way of finding the light.



Black Harry

A highwayman known as Black Harry operated along these routes. He was eventually caught and executed. His body was displayed in a gibbet beside the road. Not hidden, but left in full view—as a warning to others Travel carefully—the road has always carried more than it seems.

A warm, rustic dinner table setting. In the center is a large, dark wooden bowl filled with a hearty beef stew, containing chunks of meat, potatoes, and carrots. Steam rises from the bowl. To the left of the bowl are two pieces of flatbread, topped with herbs. To the right is a round pie with a lattice crust, topped with sliced almonds. In the background, a small lantern with a warm light inside sits on the table, next to a small glass candle holder and a dark metal mug. The overall atmosphere is cozy and inviting.

Enjoy Your Meal

Thank you for joining us on this journey through the darker history of the Peak District.
Now it's time to relax, reflect on the stories you've heard, and enjoy a hearty meal
inspired by the older traditions of Derbyshire.



Thank You

We hope today's walk has given you a deeper appreciation of the remarkable people, hidden places and true stories that have shaped the Peak District. Every tale you've discovered is rooted in real history.

Thank you for being part of Dark Tales of the Peaks

We hope to welcome you again.