

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

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 white shirt, a dark vest, and dark trousers, with a brown bag slung over his shoulder. The woman is on the right, wearing a green top and a long, dark skirt. They are walking towards a small village with a church spire visible in the distance. The scene is set at sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light illuminating the sky and the path. The path is flanked by dense trees and foliage on the left and a stone wall with a wire fence on the right.

Allen & Clara

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



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 Martin's Church

For centuries, the people of Stoney Middleton gathered here in times of joy and sorrow. The church watched over a community shaped by lead mining, trade and hard work. It would also bear witness to darker days, when fear, illness and loss touched almost every family in the valley.

The image is a full-page background illustration. It depicts a serene, historical scene. In the foreground, a stone wall on the left has a small waterfall cascading into a pool. To the right, a stone path leads away from the viewer. In the middle ground, a rectangular stone bathhouse is situated, with steam rising from it, suggesting warm water. The background shows a lush green valley with a small village and a prominent church with a tall spire. The sky is filled with soft, orange and pink clouds, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and evocative of a bygone era.

The Roman Bath House

The spring never stopped flowing. For generations, people came here with aching limbs, weary bodies and hopes of relief. They soaked in the warm waters, exchanged, and listened to stories 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

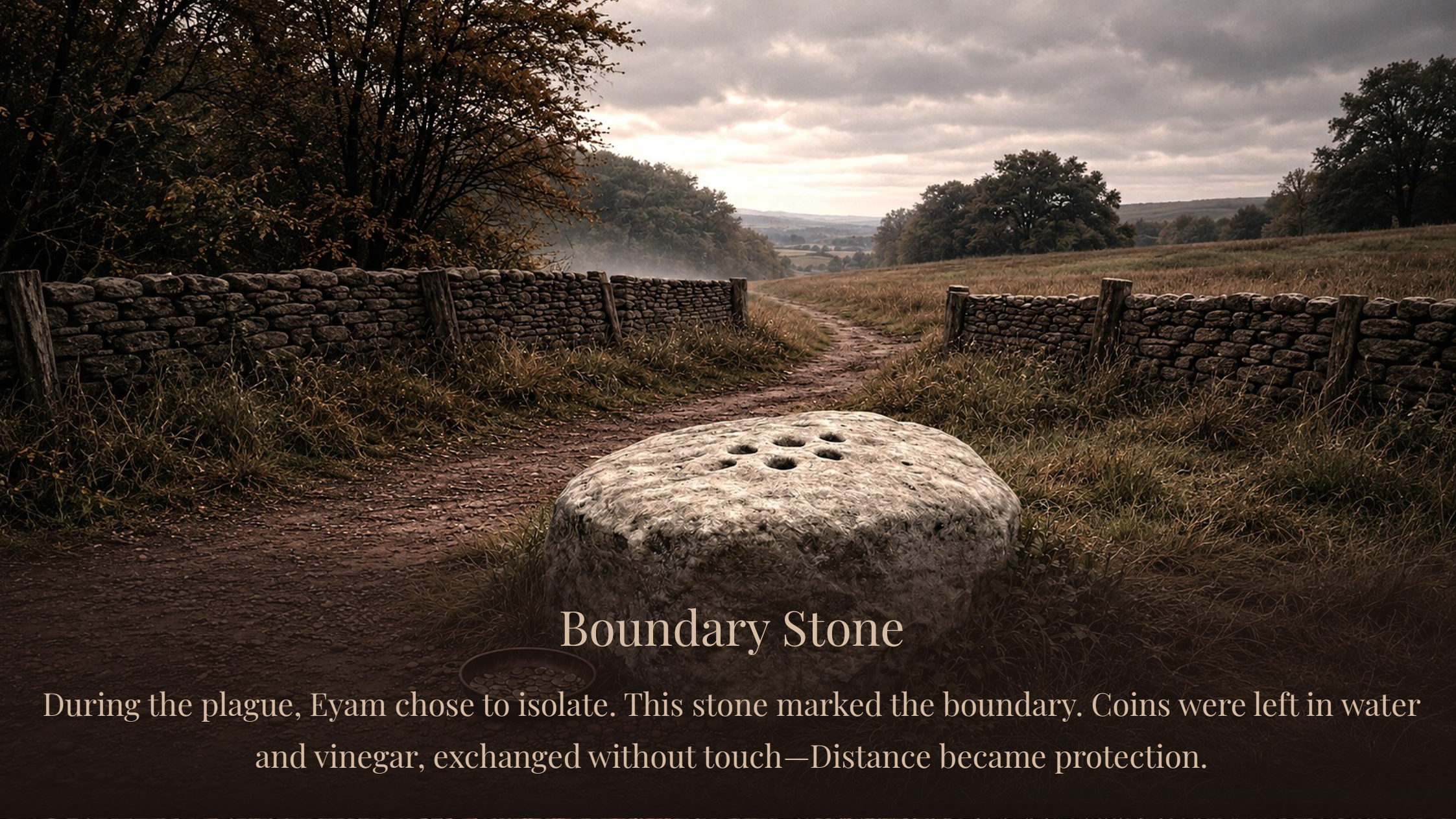
During the plague in Eyam, Emmott Sydall remained within the village while Rowland Torre stayed outside the boundary. They met at a distance, able to see one another, but not touch.

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

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.