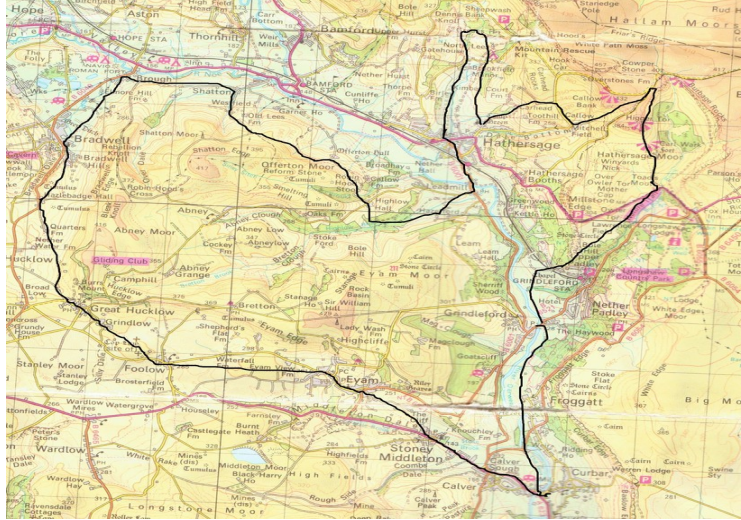


**WALK 131.
CALVER 131.
THE SEVEN HALLS WALK.
32 Miles. 8 hours 55 minutes.
Map White Peak. Dark Peak. SK28/38.**



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During the C.14 and C.15 the Eyre family was dominant in Peak land especially around Hathersage. The halls then built have passed into history; this walk visits seven of these sites.

Start at Calver (248743). Near the bridges go up a lane with the famous old mill on the R to the Stocking Farm, an interesting building; caravans to the R and shower rooms on the L. Go through a stile at the side of a facing gate, onward through a field to a gate and a lane with a water leat on the R. Go down the mostly muddy lane to come to a road B.6054 at New Bridge.

Cross the road to a slot stile and continue the walk N through trees, leat on the R, until a footbridge to cross, muddy track. Cross another footbridge and carry on to reach Froggatt at Froggatt Bridge. Walk N through this small village. Leaving by a lane, still N, that becomes paved; then muddy. Go through a stile at the side of a gate then where the wall end angle R and go to the end of the facing wall. Walk N with wall on L over some pavers then mud to reach Froggatt Wood to then enter.

It is a short but pleasant walk; over a stone footbridge and walk on a good track to leave the wood by a stile. Walk now with wall on the L to reach a stile in the wall on the L. This leads into a field to cross this, to reach a road at Grindleford; the B.6521 at Grindleford Bridge. Just here is one of the historic signs erected by the P.D. and N.C. footpath society; number 34, erected in 1908.

Walk N for a few metres past a garage on the L and go through a stile on the L. walk through a field wall or hedge on the R to get to a concrete bridge. Go R here to walk NE through field with wall on the L, rising gently to a wall to pass through. At the second wall bear R and walk E on a raised embankment, wall on R, towards a railway line to cross by a bridge. Go through a swing gate on the R and come to a wide track: bear R and go over a cattle grid. This track comes to Padley and Padley Chapel one of the Eyre Halls but not a lot remains.

Continue E for 600 metres, then go steeply uphill (before the mill). Go through a swing gate: a N.T. sign states Padley Gorge. Now go into one of the most charming spots of the Peak. Track now over many gritstones in the track. The stream now flows away down to the R in the gorge. Soon emerge from the woods into open ground, walk with the stream on the R to reach the Burbage

Bridge, then bear R over a footbridge and walk up through trees to a gate to enter a road to cross at 263805.

Go through a stile and climb up the steep flanks of Carls Wark, a fine hill-fort which covers about two acres. The dating is uncertain: some attribute it to the Iron Age; others to a post-Roman period. Drop down the other side then climb up the flanks of Higger Tor another fine hill position.

Descend to a stile and the road at 256823. Cross the road to a stile, enter a field, then bear L and go downhill, Callow Bank on the R. enter a lane by a stile then descend, Callow on the L and go downhill for about 400 metres. Then go R at a footpath sign on a farm track.

Walk along this track to Toothill Farm, the views over Hathersage warrant attention. Bear L just before the farm, then walk around the house, going R through a swing gate, and walking up, farm on the R, enter a field on the L. walk steeply uphill, keeping too the R. go through a farm gate at the top, then bear L and walk uphill close to the wall on the L on a wide track that leads to a gate and a minor road at 242822.

Bear L. Follow the road past Leveret Croft and go steeply down past Kimber Court Farm (Slot on R of gates), then go through a gate that comes into the yard of Moorseats itself. Leave by a small gate, bear R and go along a narrow path to a white gate. Drop down steeply, wall on the L, to a door that stands impressively in a stone surround, then enter a narrow field and go forward.

In several hundred metres, drop down through a field on the R to a stile then over a small brook. Enter a field; ignore slot on L, go NW uphill, fence on L. Leave the fence (on L) and go to the middle of the field to go through a stile in a fence, continue to climb to the R in the next field to the far corner and a step stile. The views continue to emphasise what beauty there is in the countryside around Hathersage.

Continue to go N, contouring against a line of trees on the L. A glimpse of Stannage is seen ahead, and down on the L stands Brookfield Manor. At Cowclose Farm go through a gate and walk around the buildings to a swing gate close to the farmhouse. Go along the drive to the road at 235831.

Go R uphill on a steep drive past North Lees, the third of the Halls on this route. Go through a gate on the other side of the Hall. Go up through a field, keeping to the L, and pass a footpath sign directs to another sign on the L where a ladder stile over a wall and another sign.

Drop steeply down the hillside which is covered with grit boulders, trees to the R. ahead Green's House can be seen, below stands the meagre remains of the chapel. Cross the stream and pass a small reservoir and a sign, then climb through this delightful spot to a gate which has grit slabs for steps in the wall. Walk through a field to Green's House to a gate with a small gate on its L. enter a lane, walk towards the house, but just before the yard, go L through a wide slot in a wall.

Drop down through a field, fence on the R, and now walk through a rough wooden gate in the wall and continue downhill to another gate in a wall. Go through trees to a footbridge with a stream. Go through a swing gate and make for good steps in a wall and the road near Bronte Cottage at 234831.

Cross the road to a green gate and sign, then pass through a field to go down a jitty at the side of a conference centre. Go over a stile then walk through a field below Cowclose Farm to a footpath sign and then a farm drive to go R and follow through gates and slots to Hathersage.

Walk down the road to Leadmill Bridge go past this and take the second road on the R and climb up steeply to the fourth Hall; Hazelford. (233799).

Follow the road to the R to come to Tor Farm, then go straight ahead through a field, wall on the R, and a view ahead of the valley of the Highlow Brook. Come to a gate in a wall and enter Highlow Wood where fallen trees make the path difficult to negotiate. Come down to a step stile, then go immediately R over stream and through a gate. Walk up through Highlow Wood on a track savagely rutted by a tractor. Go through a gate into a field a see ahead a stately line of trees; Highlow Hall appears the fifth of the Halls. Go up to the road at 218211. Bear R and walk for 100 metres, then bear L at a junction and descend into a valley of the Dunge Brook. Follow the road around the curves and on to Offerton Hall the sixth at 212810.

Do not follow the road to the R around the hall, but go straight ahead over a wooden stile, then walk NW along the flanks of Offerton Moor, (not the route that goes straight up the hill to Abney).

Climb gently but relentlessly, going in and out of Old Clough, marvellous views, the triumvirate Lose Hill. Come to a massive ladder stile and the road at 201815.

Bear R and follow the road steeply down the road to Shatton, to then go L along Townfield Lane a part sunken lane to come to a gate, sign and stile on the R. on the L however, get a view of Shatton Hall Farm: number seven of the halls.

Go R through the gate into a field and walk W, hedge on the L to come to a gate and footpath sign in front. Drop down a sunken lane to see the flat base of the valley, a striking feature among the steep hills around, soon come to a gate with steps on the R, then walk down a lane to connect with Brough Lane at 182826.

At this point, do not go as far as the road, but just before it, go L behind some houses, passing a footpath sign, going through a swing gate into a field. Now walk behind the Town of Bradwell, going through fifteen fields on an easily followed path, passing close to Lee House on the way, and coming into a lane and road through the town; the lane has a small river running under a house.

Turn L on the road and just pass the church, go L up steps and through houses to a slot stile at the last bungalow and so into a field at 175807. Walk S through this area called Bradwell Hills, going through the remains of former workings and coming down to a farm at Hazlebadge Hall (a Vernon home not the Eyres). Go through a stile and walk through the buildings to the road at 171799.

The hall is on the R as the road is reached, bear L and walk along the road for several hundred metres, before angling L down a lane. Walk S up to Quarters Farm on the L to enter a field by a facing gate, ascend the field to a stile of three cross bars, then continue to rise to a slot stile, now no longer needed, proceed to another stile of crossbars. Go through a field to a corner, a sign stands in the next field. then onto a track that levels out to come to a metal green gate with stile on the R. onto a hard track to leave the fields behind to pass what seems to be a scrap yard to emerge on to a lane by a gate at 175782.

Bear L and walk up to Great Hucklow; leave by the second road on the R, signed Grindlow. This comes then down to a right angle turn in the road at the far end of the hamlet at 182774. Go L here at a footpath sign down a lane on the route to Foolow, the lane being paved in part. At its end, go through a stile and walk through a field straight to a slot ahead. Go through the next field to a slot with steps then a small field and stile to enter a road (188768).

Bear L and walk through Foolow; past a duck pond on the R. go straight on a Public House and go 100 metres on the Eyam Road to then go R off the road at a sign and stile. Now begins the route to Eyam over fields; make first for the ruins ahead to continue over several slot stiles with the wall on the R to then drop into Linen Dale.

Climb up the opposite bank then continue E over broken walls to come to a lane. Now take seven fields of various shapes: some narrow; some NW; some EW. Then begin to drop and have a view over Eyam. Carry on over several fields still easy to follow in others footsteps to reach a jitty between houses and come down on the road to enter Eyam where another Hall built by Bradshaw stands.

Continue on the road through Eyam past the stocks on the R and past the plague houses with explanation on plaques. Go past a two roads on the R then go R up a Lydgate Lane to go past more Plague houses. Carry straight on where the road goes R through a stile to go down a narrow drive, over a stile then go through a field then ahead past a small set of trees on the L to then go steeply downhill.

Leave the field by a stile then go downhill on a road; notice the house on the L, an inscription to the second Baron Denman of Dovedale, a reminder to us of the Denman's, Joseph and Thomas, some of the greatest reformers of the Victorian era. Near the bottom of the road turn R, but first notice the six sided church in front.

Go out onto the main road A.623, turn L and walk down to a cross road with traffic lights. Cross the road and continue down the road back to the start.

Notes to accompany the walk explaining the seven Halls.

1. PADLEY CHAPEL; lies near to a footpath as possible. The chapel is all that is left of a large and magnificent hall, once the property of the Eyre family who were noted for their adherence to the Roman Catholic Faith. Padley Chapel was deconsecrated in 1933; the original place of worship. Two ancient doorways remain, together with a hammer beam roof with angels against the beams. For centuries the altar stone lay in a cowshed.

The ruins of the hall are located on the N side of the chapel; the rooms are outlined in stones in the bare earth. The house was quadrangular of the C.14 and C.13. The kitchen has a great open fireplace; a crude sink is carved out of solid stone. Whatever was left of the ruins in 1893 was demolished to build the new railway.

Robert Eyre was the oldest of Robert's seven sons and lived at Padley. On his return from Agincourt where he was taken prisoner a marshal of France, he married Joan Padley, and thus the Padley estate came to the Eyres. The portraits of Robert and Joan are in brass in Hathersage Church.

Robert built the large hall here. Eventually his male heirs died out, a member of his family, Anne, married Sir Thomas Fitzherbert of Norbury, who like all the Eyres was a staunch Catholic. Sir Thomas was the eldest son of the famous judge, Sir Antony Fitzherbert who spent 20 years in prison, dying in the Tower in 1591. John was his brother and looked after his estates while Sir Thomas was in prison/

During the reign of Elizabeth 1 when the Protestant Church was being finally established in England, Roman Catholics came under great pressure to give up their religion. At this time, the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire was the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury. In 1588, he sent his men to Padley to check whether these well-known Catholics were to be found to be celebrating Mass. Two priests were found to be hiding: Nicholas Garlic, a schoolmaster in Tideswell for seven years before being ejected for his catholic principals, and Robert Ludlam. Both had been trained and ordained at the Jesuit College in Rheims.

The raid took place on the night of 1588. The two men were imprisoned in Derby; John Eyre was also taken. The execution of the two priests made them martyrs; a fact remembered each July in a service of remembrance. The Eyre estates were confiscated. The great hall of Padley was occupied for a time by Richard Topcliffe who was the chief official of the Earl of Shrewsbury in his work of suppressing the Catholic faith. With it went the fine old hall; only a few thin memories hang about the lonely stones of Padley.

2. MOORSEATS.

Moorseats lies a little to the NE of Hathersage: it is a modest estate carved out of the Padley patrimony for the youngest son of the family. It was inherited by the Bernake family in the C.18, then passed to the Froggatts and then back to the Eyres who retained it until 1860. The house was much altered in the next two centuries, so that today it appears as a small north Derbyshire gabled manor house.

Charlotte Bronte stayed here whilst on holiday in Hathersage. Thomas, the eldest son of Mary Eyre of North Lees had bought Moorseats, and it is believed that he proposed to Charlotte. Moorseats is thought to be "Moor House" in "Jane Eyre" where Jane sought the Kindly Rivers family; visitors still visit the house in search of memories of Jane Eyre.

3. NORTH LEES.

North Lees is an impressive small towering manor house in a beautiful and secluded position on the edge of the moors at the head of a little valley. It is the most romantic of the houses that is being studied. Lees comes from "Layes" a clearing.

A house stood at North Lees in 1306 probably tenanted by officials of the Royal Forest of the Peak. The estate was owned by the Wyckersley family for two hundred years. It was leased in 1531 to a Smith, an official of the Earl of Shrewsbury's manor of Bamford; then to Richard Fenton who was arrested in 1588, he died in prison.

It is believed that William Eyre, the second son of Nicholas Eyre of Hope, was the first of the Eyres to live in North Lees. They left in the reign of James 2nd. Another reference states the Eyres

were tenants of North Lees from 1750 to 1882. In fact Charlotte Bronte was impressed that there were Eyres in Hathersage some 400 years later than their brasses in Hathersage Church.

The story was accepted among residents of North Lees that its first mistress, Agnes Ashurst was demented and was confined to a room on the second floor. She met her death in a fire. The connection with the novel Jane Eyre is obvious. North Lees might have been Thorncliffe Hall in the novel. It is interesting that Jane went out on to the Leads, something Charlotte must have done.

The building is a simple rectangular tower with a staircase turret, projecting slightly at one angle, thus resembling a border tower, and, as such, is unique in Derbyshire.

There is elaborate plasterwork inside the main rooms; it was restored in 1965 by Lt. Col.G.G. Haythornthwaite. It is dated 1594 in the ground floor room. Attached to the tower is a two story wing, probably later. Across two fields, on the footpath that comes up from the delightful glade, are the ruins of a pre-reformation chapel.

4. HAZELFORD.

This is one of the most charming small seventeenth century houses in the peak, set precariously on a hillside in a superb situation. It was built for Lawrence, the third son of Adam Eyre of Hathersage. An eleven schilling rental was paid by their son John in 1647.it seems to be one of the many small seats owned by the Eyres.

It is L-shaped with three bays irregular, straight, coped gables, with ball finials, mullioned windows and dominant chimney stacks set diagonally. The segmentally-headed doorway has a label over it.

5. HIGHLOW HALL.

This is a modest but delightful sixteenth century manor house in a breath-taking setting. The name means "high hill". The walker has a striking view of it on the climb up from Highlow Brook.

Previously, there stood here an early fourteen century hall, which itself stood on the site of a much older house. The daughter of Joan Archer brought Highlow to one of the Eyres of Hope in the C.14. It was, later, given by Robert Eyre of Padley, the younger, to Thomas, one of his sons. The house was then rebuilt in C.16.

It is irregular shaped with crenelated front. The square, projecting porch is also embattled. Its hall has moulded timber beams and an open fireplace, also a C.17 staircase.

The house was sold to the Duke of Devonshire in 1802.

6. OFFERTON HALL.

It is a typical North Derbyshire house stone built and gabled but now a farm. It stands on an impressive site with commanding views over the River Derwent Valley. Offerton is mentioned in Domesday where the spelling is "UFTUNE". In 1473, Ralph Eyre leased it from the Grange of Abney from the Abbot of Rufford.

In 1550, in post reformation times, the Eyres rebuilt Offerton Hall; some of their work can still be seen. In 1640 the house was described as ruinous. The estate passed to Robert Glossop, in 1658 he rebuilt part of the house; the date is on a date-stone.

The widows show different dates of buildings with mullions and flattened arch tops; some have individual hood-moulds; others have continuous.

The stair turret at the rear also betrays its age; there are two projecting gables. Inside there is an old chimney-breast of forty feet circumference, with a unique lantern chimney. There is a fine Cruck-barn in the farmyard: This tiny hamlet is very ancient.

7. SHATTON HALL.

SCETUNE was a Berewick of Hope Manor in the Domesday Book. In 1208 it was spelled SCHATTON. In 1305, a Peter de Schattoner, Forester, is mentioned.

Shatton is mentioned in a document of 1551 when tithes were granted by the Dean and Chapter of Litchfield.

Soon after this, there is a reference to the Eyre family when Robert is mentioned in the Hope Parish in 1551. The Eyres lived in Shatton Hall and also in Nether Shatton. In C.16. John Thornhill came courting Jane Eyre. Her brother Robert who succeeded to Shatton Hall. He died in 1616. From him descended the Eyres of Edale and Brough.

The hall is now a farm hidden behind trees in a secluded valley. It is approached down a deep lane. The kitchen is 400 years old; it has a spy hole in a stone wall for defence. The Tudor windows have leaded lights with original catches. There is a stone staircase.

8. HAZELBADGE.

This is not an Eyre house; it is included as part of an interesting walk.

It lies on the end of Bradwell gorge, three-quarters of a mile S of the town. It is now a working farm and looks what it is. It is much reduced from its former glory as one of the numerous manor houses of the Vernon family.

The original owners of the hall and estate were the Strelleys of Strelley. From them it passed onto the Vernons of Haddon by marriage. Sir Richard Vernon held it in 1517. He settled it on his younger son and thus it passed on to the Manners family as part of the dowry of the celebrated marriage of Dorothy Vernon to Sir John Manners. There is an armorial of the Vernon family and date 1594 over the door. The Swynnertons are included in this coat of arms.

Hazelbadge is one of the oldest manor houses in Derbyshire. Its W front has five and six-light mullioned windows with depressed pointed arches to each light. These seem right for the date.

On the S front the windows are straight headed, these are of a later date.

A SW room has moulded ceiling beams. And the barns are C.16.

9. EYAM.

This again is not an Eyre house. Eyam Hall is a C.16 house, the S front is later. There is a date 1676 on a rain-water head.

The estate at Eyam was owned by the Staffords before 1204. It passed to Francis Bradshaw who probably built Eyam Hall. It then passed to the Wright family; they still own it.

The entrance from the road with four well-spaced bays. The windows are symmetrical arranged and touch the string courses with their tops. The earlier masonry at the back contains the staircase which is said to have come from Bradshaw Hall.