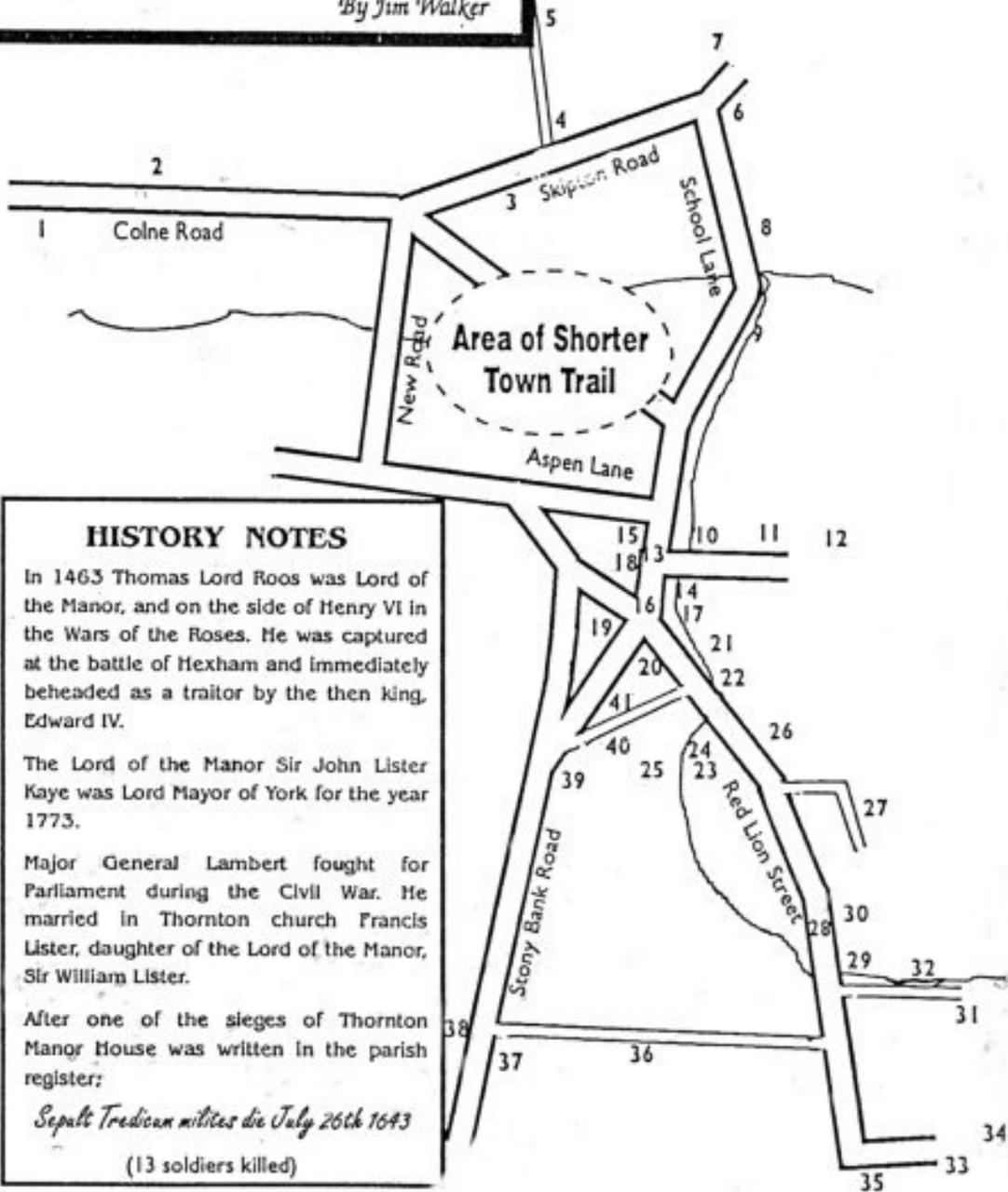


There are two Town Trails  
 The 'Shorter Town Trail' gives interesting  
 information on the central area of Earby

# EARBY LONGER TOWN TRAIL

By Jim Walker



## HISTORY NOTES

In 1463 Thomas Lord Roos was Lord of the Manor, and on the side of Henry VI in the Wars of the Roses. He was captured at the battle of Hexham and immediately beheaded as a traitor by the then king, Edward IV.

The Lord of the Manor Sir John Lister Kaye was Lord Mayor of York for the year 1773.

Major General Lambert fought for Parliament during the Civil War. He married in Thornton church Francis Lister, daughter of the Lord of the Manor, Sir William Lister.

After one of the sieges of Thornton Manor House was written in the parish register:

*Sepult Tredecim milites die July 26th 1643*

(13 soldiers killed)

## **Earby Longer Town Trail**

### **1. Old mile stone**

This, with its queer inscription is now situated near the cenotaph, nearest the main road. It originally stood at the top of Barnwood Road.

### **2. Railway Station \* \* = buildings pulled down**

The railway from Colne to Skipton was opened on 2nd October 1848. The section from Skipton to Colne was constructed by Boulton & Co. for £67,000. The single track to Barlick was opened in 1871. The last train ran on 25 September 1965.

### **3. Dodgson's Smithy \***

Here was the Earby blacksmiths first shop in the latter part of the 19th century. It was built by Christopher Bracewell.

### **4. Lane Ends \***

In 1898 here were the joiners shop of Ebenezer Evans, and smithy of Alfred Dodgson. Also the wheelwrights shop of Stephen Parker. The buildings were pulled down about 1910.

### **5. Murder Lane**

Nickname given to the Old Lane to Barnoldswick in the year 1892, from the murder in the lane by Moses Cudworth of Earby of his wife in that year.

### **6. Toll Bar House \***

In 1792 it was alleged at Knaresborough Sessions that the road from the Township of Earby to Kelbrook was "*very ruinous, too narrow, and in great decay for want of repairs.*" In 1824 an Act for the making of a turnpike road from Colne to the junction with the Clitheroe to Skipton road was passed, and there was a house here called the Toll Bar House. Why I don't know, because the toll bars were at Thornton and Foulridge. It ceased to be a toll road on 31 December 1875.

### **7. All Saints Church**

Opened in 1909. A tower had been planned for erection at a later date, but this was never built.

### **8. The Grove**

This house was built by a retired naval doctor, so that he could look out from his window between two majestic rows of trees which stood on what is now Valley Road. He called his house The Grove, but when the trees were felled he was so incensed that he altered the 'o' on his sign to an 'a,' renaming his house '*The Grave*' and left Earby.

### **9. Tin Church \***

Also called the *Tin Tabernacle* was created in 1855 at a cost of £600, as the parish church at that time was a mile away at Thornton. It was called a *Chapel of Ease*, meaning that it was a separate place of worship other than the parish church, and was approached by a footbridge over the beck. It seated 350 persons and was dismantled in 1916 and taken to Skipton, where it stands to this day in Broughton Road.

### **10. 'Cosy' cinema**

This cinema for mainly silent films was in what is now the public library. There was a building here before this called the Victoria Institute, built by the Bracewell family in 1878. Here were held *Penny Readings*, where literate men read newspapers to their less fortunate friends. This was for twenty years the headquarters of the Earby Brass Band. The new bridge to reach it, built over the beck, was called the '*Station Bridge*.'

### **11. Waddington Fold (Wadd Fold)**

This old farm has a datestone which has since been covered with pebble-dash. The date was 1611.

### **12. Wheatlands Cemetery**

In 1887 the Baptists purchased the former cornfield to be used by all the inhabitants as a cemetery.

### **13. Village well**

Outside the entrance to the Baptists one of the village wells is still there, though now under the road, with steps leading down.

### **14. 'Wackitt' the shoemaker**

One of the village shoemakers lived in a house near the beck here. He got the nickname of '*Wackit*' because he put his leather in the beck and 'wacked' it so as to soften it.

### **15. Mount Zion Baptist Chapel \***

Built in 1861, recently demolished and houses built on the site.

### **16. Bull Baiting Ring \***

There was a bull baiting ring here, the law being that bulls were not allowed to be killed for their meat before being baited (tormented). This was supposed to improve the meat. The bull was fastened to this ring by a chain attached to its nose. Bulldogs were then urged to attack the animal. The ring was still here about 100 years ago.

### **17. Bottom of Earby**

This was the area around the Bull Ring. Until about the 18th century many of the old houses were thatched with rushes, straw or ling. I have a list of those houses compiled in 1826. There were 28 of them.

### **18. Bailey's shop**

John Bailey built this, then the largest shop in Earby, in 1860. He also built the Spring Mill.

### **19. Bull Farm**

Was No. 2 Stoneybank Road. There is a datestone at the back 1671. Also known as Bell Farm, or School Farm

### **20. Old Co-op**

These were the first Co-op buildings in Earby. On March 28 1887 it was decided *'That this shop be closed on Monday and Friday evenings at 8 o'clock pm. All other evenings at 9 o'clock by order of the Committee.'*

### **21. Hartley Smithy**

This old building over the beck was the smithy of Hartley Wilkinson, the blacksmith here from about 1850. Hartley died in 1903.

### **22. Windle Bridge (known as 'Keb Bridge')**

Henry Bailey had a nickname *'Keb'*. He lived at the house near this bridge and he would call his dog and then tell it to get into its 'kebble' (kennel).

### **23. Baptist Chapel \***

Built here in Red Lion Street, Gravel Pit Road as it was then called (corrupted to 'Grelpit') in 1821. Later a minister's house was added, much later on this became a shop. In the attic of this house the first minister *'Old Billy'* held a day school, and here also the newly formed Earby Brass Band had their practice sessions. It was last used as a chapel when the new chapel was opened in Water Street.

### **24. Chapel Square and old burial ground**

Here in Chapel Square was the small burial ground of the Baptists. After the closure of the chapel in 1861 the gravestones were removed and erected in the new chapel yard. Two of the headstones can be seen there today.

### **24. The Dippings**

The early Earby Baptists used this beck by the side of their church for baptismal purposes, the beck being dammed up to give a depth of water. (Very cold in winter!). On February 25th 1855 *"Three women were baptised at Barnoldswick in consequence of the severity of the weather....."* The steps are still there.

### **25. Tithe Barn \***

Selbourne Terrace \* stood over the beck on Thirlham Tithe Barn Croft. Here was the thatched tithe barn of Thornton church, and all the villagers were compelled by law to give to the church the equivalent of one tenth of their years income in goods, sheep, corn, fowl etc. If a large family had a tenth child it was called the *'tithe child'* but I don't know of any vicar claiming this one as his right!! Methodists and Baptists strongly objected to paying for the upkeep of Anglican churches and ministers. They called them *'Steeple house taxes.'* Refusal to pay meant that the churchwardens would seize goods to their value.

### **26. Top o't' Town**

This was the area round the vicinity of the Red Lion.

### **27. Gaylands Meadow**

Got its name because in olden times fairs used to be held in this field.

### **28. Mill Brow**

The old name for this, the old lane leading to the corn mill over two hundred years ago was Mylne Hill {from the Latin *'molo'* - to grind}.

### **29. Glen Cottage**

Katherine Bruce Glasier was with her husband one of the founder members of the Labour party. After his death in 1920 she refused numerous proposals of marriage from George Bernard Shaw on the grounds that marriage and children would interfere with her work. '*Old Mrs. Moorhouse's cottage*' was bought for her by a member of the Society of Friends. After her death in 1950 a memorial fund was organised and it was purchased for the Youth Hostels Association, the cottage being named *The Kathrine Bruce Glasier Hostel*'.

### **30. Old Millers House \***

Stood for centuries near Glen Cottage.