

Title:

Thornhill, Yorkshire

Shelfmark:

C908/9

Description:

Mr Fisher speaks of the working and living conditions he experienced as a young miner in the early part of the twentieth century and recalls playing marbles in the street as a child. Barnsley (to the southeast), Wakefield and Castleford (to the east) are all sizeable mining towns near Thornhill.

Lexis:

aye = yes; *and all* = too, as well, also; *collier* = miner; *ripping* = coal debris from tunnelling work; *benk* = section of pit allotted to several colliers; *tother* = the other; *folk* = people; *taw* = to play marbles; *ring-taw* = type of marbles game; *dodge-hole* = type of marbles game; *while* = till; *half-time system* = system allowing schoolchildren to attend school for half usual time and spend other half in paid employment; *yet* = still, now as formerly

Phonology:

definite article + C → [ʔt]; definite article + V → [t]; H-dropping; *to* + infinitive → [ʔ] (*we should have to check* [af ʔ tSEk] *notes*)

GOAT [O:]; PRICE [a: ~ a:¹]; FACE [E:]; START [a:]; MOUTH [a:]; NURSE [ə]; happy [I]

<-ever-> → [Iv@]; <wa-> → [wa]

note also *yes* [j@s], *always* [O:lɪz ~ O:l@z], *one* [wUn], *horses* [Qs@z ~ hQs@z], *breaking* [br/EkIn], *used to do* [IUt@dU], *didn't* [dInt], *make* [mEk] and *making* [mEkIn], *years* [jI@z], *in* [I], *getting* [gItIn] and *get* [gIt], *engine* [IndZ@n], *deputy* [dEp@tI], *master* [mA:st@], (*be*)*cause* [k@s ~ bIk@s], *so much* [sO: mUtS > s@mUtS], *perhaps* [pr/aps], *go* [gU], *considered* [kQnsId@d], *instruments* [Instr/@mEnts], *hole* [OI], *yours* [ju@z], *school* [skUll], *with* [wI], *for* [fQ] and *authority* [@TQR/@tI]

Grammar:

first person singular *were* (*I were a pony driver; I were frightened; I were rather young; I were a bit scared; when I were married*) third person singular *were* (*there were just digging mostly in the daytime; the ripping were thicker and wider; ripping were so much a yard; it were a relief; they knew what were coming; sugar were about threepence; it were considered very good; it were age what got you down*)

inverted verb phrase as tag (*they were little mad devils, were the horses*)

clitic *have* (*they'd to find their way; you'd to set your own; you'd to burrow them out and all; they'd to be subsidised; we'd a good wage; we'd to go to the cheapest shops; I'd a very good one; we'd a good band here* = had ~ had to)

of + pronoun → *on* (*they were devils some on them; it were a relief for the most on them*)

zero plural marker on nouns (*there might be a few collier; two pound; well-dressedfolk; ten year old*)

complementiser, so that → *so as* (*so as you'd got main roads*)

there is + plural complement (*there 's these benks*)

double comparative (*tothers were less higher and less narrower*)

third person plural *has* (*same as railways has been*)

zero for + time phrase (*I'd been careful _ about five years*)

at + general time phrase (*at Monday*)

independent personal pronoun (*him* *at get most out*)

preterite *get* (*him at get most out*)

relative pronoun → *at* (*him at get most out had them won*); relative pronoun → *what* (*it were age what got you down*)

agent preposition, by <span style="FONT-FAMILY: Symbol; mso-ascii-font-fam

