

Title:

Avebury, Wiltshire

Shelfmark:

C908/21

Description:

James talks about the improvement in farm workers' wages over his working life and talks about the beer brewed locally at Kennet. Winterbourne Monkton (just to the north), West Kennet (just to the southeast) and Beckhampton (just to the southwest) are nearby villages. The Lion presumably refers to a public house.

Lexis:

a-one = one; *bloater* = cured, smoked herring; *these here* = these; *harrow* = heavy timber frame set with iron teeth used to break up hard ground; *cause* = because; *hames* = pair of pieces of wood or metal fastened to collar of draught horse; *a-thirty-six* = thirty-six

phonology

H-dropping; rhoticity

MOUTH [@U]; GOAT [o:]; NORTH [O` : ~ A` :]; START [A` :]; NURSE [@` :]; LOT [A]; LETTER [@`]

note also *it is* [tIz] and *it was* [tw@z], *better* [bE?@`], *(be)cause* [bIk@z ~ kOz], *by* [bI], *perhaps* [pr/aps], *these here* [Di:zj@`:], *harrows* [ar/@z], *so many* [s@ mEni] and *so good* [s@ gUd], *after* [a:ft@`], *there* [D@`:], *father* [fa:D@`], *Beckhampton* [bEgampt@n], *Lion* [l{IAn]

Grammar:

zero auxiliary (*the people _ got more to live on*)

third person plural *was* (*when the wages was 8/9^d; when they was out in the field to plough*)

determiner, *those* → *they* (*in they days*)

preposition, *with* → *by* (*when he used to take it to market by the horses*)

for to + infinitive (*then they used to take so much out of their wages every week, see, perhaps a shilling, like that, for to help them*)

there is + plural complement (*there's so many gone off the farms*)

third person plural *is* (*the wages is better now*)

double plural marker (*used to hang it on the horse's hameses*)

comparative particle, *as* → *so* (*the beer was never so good*)

preterite *drawed* (*then in the summer they drawed it out*)

periphrastic do (*the beer then did keep = the beer kept then*)

third person singular *do* (*it don't keep long, do it?*)