

Title:

Haltwhistle, Northumberland

Shelfmark:

C908/41

Description:

Ned remembers the special relationship he built up with one of his horses whilst working as a carter. He was the only person able to handle it after it became unsettled after the death of another horse. He recalls a particularly difficult time when his cows lost several unborn calves and the subsequent effect this had on the horse.

Lexis:

gan = to go; *hemel* = cow-shed; *yon* = over there; *ontiv* = onto (+ V); *frae* = from; (?) *jerry horse* = possibly a term used jocularly to refer to quarry horses (see EDD); *hame* = home; *nicker* = to neigh; *thou wasn't to* = you shouldn't; *pick-calve* = to slip a calf, lose a calf in pregnancy; *mysell* = myself; *intiv* = (into + V); *tother* = other; *all roads* = all different ways; *fetch* = to take; *harrow* = type of heavy plough used to break up hard soil; *hank on* = to fasten on (with a loop or noose); *bar* = apart from, except; *heifer* = young cow that has not had a calf; *fell* = high moorland; *byre* = cow-house; *naught* = nothing; *a-three* = three; *nae* = no

Phonology:

MOUTH [u:]; START [a:]; FACE [e:]; GOAT [o:]

<-ever-> [Iv@]

note also *hold* [a:ld], *have* [hEv] and *had* [hEd], *quarter* [kwa:t@^r], *right* [r/EIt], *quarry* [kwar/I], *over* [OU@], *does* [dIz], *murmur* [mO:m@], *after* [Eft@], *funny one* [fUnI@n] and *dead ones* [dEd@nz], *ground* [gr/Und], *get* [gIt], *there* [DI@], *first* [fUst], *naught* [nOUt], *no more* [ni: mE@] and *head* [hi:d]

Grammar:

use of *thee* and *thou* (*the horse might be funny with thee; I telled thee thou wasn't to drive like that*)
verbal inflection (*I says*)

first person singular *is* (*that's where I's feeding the calves*)

preterite *come* (*when he come into the road, Ill guarantee he was as white as a ghost; why man, when I come back from work a-three hours after*)

zero plural marker on nouns (*two year older than me; for three year*)

preterite *telled* (*I telled thee*)

third person singular *were* (*that's what did it were that horse that day*); third person plural *was* (*every calf I had was dead ones; the horses was my trade*)

note use and phonetic quality of utterance final discourse markers *mind* [mEInd] and *you know* [j@na:] and utterance final discourse marker *man* [man]. Note also the constructions *thou wasn't to drive like that* = you shouldn't drive like that *I'll not forget the first time I put it in* = I won't forget the first time I put it in