Title:
Skelmanthorpe, Yorkshire

Shelfmark:
C908/48

Description:
Wilsey recalls an incident when he thought he saw a ghost and briefly describes working conditions when he first started at the local mine as a twelve year old in the late 1880s. The original recording appears to have been paused on one occasion.

lexis

oft = often; soon = early; somewhat = something; this here = this; sithee ! = look!; yond = that (over there); awther = either; take one's hook = to leave quickly, take flight; gain = near, close; what the hummer? = what the devil?; seek = to look for; get = to become; while = till; right = real, proper; folk = people; reckon = to add up, calculate; coom = to come; naught = nothing

phonology

definite article → [t ~ ?]; h-dropping; /t/ → [t̪ > 4]; <-Vt#> + V → [t] /

FACE [e:]; GOAT [O: ~ U@]; MOUTH [ [ @ ]; NURSE [O > @ ]; PRICE [A: ~ AI ]; happy [I]

<-ook> → [Uuk]; <-ever- > [Iv@]; <-cl- → [l]; <wa- → [wa]

Grammar:

first person singular were (I were very oft first there; I were inserting key into the lock); third person singular were (if there were a funeral on; I heard it were saying somewhat; I could hear what it were saying; a woman had comed out in her night dress and were seeking her cat; there were no mechanism in the pit; every bit of coal were hand-gotten)

clitic have (we'd a funeral = we had a funeral; we'd a grave to dig = we had to dig a grave; I'd key = I had the key; I'd to be at the pit at six o'clock = I had to be at the pit at six o'clock; I'd to work in water = I had to work in water)

word order with infinitive phrase (we'd a grave to dig = we had to dig a grave)

past participle gotten (my mate had gotten there before me; every bit of coal were hand-gotten; I'd gotten a right sweat on)
verbal inflection with I (I say)

use of thee and thou (art thou late, Bill?; sithee, Bill!; what the hummer art thou seeking?; hast thou seen my cat?; thou wants cat in)

zero definite article (I’d _ key; I went up _ steps; I were inserting _ key into the lock; thou wants _ cat in)

object pronoun as reflexive pronoun (I turned me round)

zero auxiliary (I _ never seen a ghost in my life)

multiple negation (don’t make no mistake)

past participle comed (a woman had comed out in her night dress)

zero plural marker on noun (twelve year old)

determiner, those → them (in them days)

<a + -ing> (I started a-working at a shilling in the day)