

Title:

Merriott, Somerset

Shelfmark:

C908/66

Description:

Arthur describes the Roman road that passes near Merriott and recalls an old lady who used to live on it who terrorised passers-by. He goes on to describe the cow-shed. The original recording appears to have been paused on two occasions. Yeovil is a town to the northeast of Merriott.

Lexis:

tother = other; *oh ah* = yes; *nigh* = nearly; *haul* = to pull, drag; *culvert* = channel conveying stream of water beneath road; *hawk* = to peddle goods; *cause* = because; *thick* = that; *standing* = stall in cow-shed; *gulley* = drain in cow-shed; *afore* = before

phonology

rhoticity; occasionally <f-> → [v] (*for* [v@`:], *fetching* [vEtsIn] and *four* [vO`:]) and <s-> → (*something to say* [zVmTIN t@ zeI]) and voiceless <th-> → [d] (*through* [dr/u:] and *three* [dr/i:]) or → [D] (*thing* [DIN])

MOUTH [{U ~ EU}; PRICE [@I]; THOUGHT [Q:]; GOAT [oU ~ o:]; NURSE [@`:]; START [a`:]; NORTH [O`:]; BATH [a:]; LOT [A]; LETTER [@`]

note also *go* [gu:] and *going* [gwaIn], *it is* [tIz] and *it isn't* [tId=n], *over* [A:v@`], *here* [I@`], *ruts* [r/{Uts], *week* [wIk], *years* [j@`z] *old woman* [woUL/ Um@n], *there* [DE@`], *after* [a:d@`], *by* [bI], *Tuesday* [tu:zdi], *this* [DI@s], *clean* [kII@n], *kept* [kIpt], *(be)cause* [kAz], *can't* [k{:nt] and *wash* [wAIS]

Grammar:

gender assigned to it (*him* (= road) *go right through the tother side _ the lane*)

masculine subject pronoun → *him* (*him go right through the tother side the lane; him comed up this way a couple of times by a load of hay; him can't sort of go down in it like they used to*); masculine subject pronoun → *her* (*when her come back, old Molly had a-pulled the culvert up*); masculine object pronoun → *hine* (*it isn't comfortable for hine lie down; all his droppings mind'll go down behind hine*); feminine subject pronoun → *her* (*her would want to chop your bloody head off, her'd say; then her come out after another by a rake*); neuter object pronoun → *hine* (*instead of him fetching the policeman for her and making her put hine back in*)

uninflected third person singular verb (*him go right through the tother side the lane; oh ah, this go right to Yeovil there; that grow a lot of rush*)

zero of (*him go right through the tother side _ the lane*)

zero indefinite article (*it is _ proper nice road*); zero definite article (*the cow stalls were all just ordinary floor at _ back*)

proper as intensifier (*it is proper nice road*)

past participle *grewed* (*in another place it is all grewed over*)

periphrastic *do* (*you'd be surprised who do come through here = you'd be surprised who comes through here*)

zero plural marker on nouns (*back a few year ago; that grow a lot of rush; Uncle Bob used to cut they rush*)

preterite *done* (*we done a lot of work down here*)

relative pronoun → *what* (*old woman what used to live there*)

preposition, with → *by* (*used to come out by a hook; then her come out after another by a rake; him comed up this way a couple of times by a load of hay; the cow stalls were all just ordinary floor at back, see, by the gully behind*)

preterite *come* (*then her come out after another by a rake; when her come back, old Molly had a-pulle*)

