

English

— *kent01* transcription and translation —

June 2016

Nils Norman Schiborr University of Bamberg

cite this document as:

Schiborr, Nils N. 2016.

Multi-CAST English kent01 transcription and translation.

In Haig, Geoffrey & Schnell, Stefan (eds.),

Multi-CAST (Multilingual Corpus of Annotated Spoken Texts).

(handle) (date accessed.)











The kent01 transcription and 'translation'

utterance

[001] Yes, well, my name's Alistair Crown.

[002] I'm, I was born at Selling Church in eighteen eighty-seven.

[003] Innit?

[004] [INT] That's right. You're eighty-eight now.

[005] My father was a shepherd, under a Mr North, Sean North.

[006] He left there and went to Sittingbourne, shepherd for Mr Trawley at Rodmersham.

[007] [INT] Hhm.

[008] When I was four years old, the only recollection I got now, is riding in the back of an old waggon with my mother and my brother and sister, coming to live at the house at Molash.

[009] And we lived in that house for six years, then moved up into the Molash village, and took the shop, the little village shop, mother did, and ran the Post Office.

[010] My father was a ca-horse dealer, 0 started horse dealing, and, he gradually got a good name for genuine business.

[011] And the, the tradespeople came to him from Faversham, Canterbury and all round, for him to find'em a pony or a horse to do their business with their cart, see.

[012] And eh, he used to go and buy these ponies off farms and wherever he could hear about one.

[013] And us boys used to have to ride'em, see if they was safe to ride; drive'em, see whether they were genuine on the road.

[014] Some of 'em shied when they see a bit of paper.

[015] Well, it wouldn't do to sell a tradesman a horse that shot one side and - would it?

[016] And if he got one that wasn't genuine, he used to send it to a man at Folkestone, we used to call Slippery Joe.

translation

[001] Yes, well, my name's Alistair Crown.

[002] I was born at Selling Church in eighteen eighty-seven.

[003] Innit?

[004] [INT] That's right. You're eighty-eight now.

[005] My father was a shepherd, under a Mr North, Sean North.

[006] He left that work and went to Sittingbourne, to works as shepherd for Mr Trawley at Rodmersham.

[007] [INT] Hhm.

[008] When I was four years old, the only recollection I got now, is riding in the back of an old waggon with my mother and my brother and sister, coming to live at the house at Molash.

[009] And we lived in that house for six years, then moved up into the Molash village, and mother took the shop, the little village shop, and ran the Post Office.

[010] My father was a horse dealer, he started horse dealing, and, he gradually got a good name for genuine business. [011] And the tradespeople came to him from Faversham, Canterbury and all round, for him to find'em a pony or a horse to do their business with their cart, see.

[012] And he used to go and buy these ponies off farms and wherever he could hear about one.

[013] And us boys used to have to ride'em, to see if they were safe to ride; we had to drive'em, to see whether they were genuine on the road.

[014] Some of 'em shied when they see a bit of paper.

[015] Well, it wouldn't do to sell a tradesman a horse that shot one side and - would it?

[016] And if he got one that wasn't genuine, he used to send it to a man at Folkestone, we used to call Slippery Joe.



[017] And he used to generally give him what it cost, so he didn't lose too much money.

[018] That was agreed between them. [019] And what he done with them, I think, they went to France for meat. [020] They eat a lot of horse meat in France, see, and I think these horses that wasn't genuine, what you couldn't recommend, they was shipped over to France.

[021] 'Cause he lived at Folkestone, and I know my father then, he used to buy a lot of ferrets.

[022] You know what a ferret is.

[023] And they all used to be shipped France.

[024] He used to get a - oh, perhaps twenty on the farm, and us boys had to feed'em.

[025] And the devils used to bite us! You know, when we put the grub into'em, they'd grab for their food - bread and milk they used to have - and they used to grab your hand, if you wadn't careful. [026] So my brother used to take an old

rope, up the other side of the hutch and shake it like that, and they used to run over there, while I put the food in.

[027] And eh, that's the way we used to do it, and then when he got about twenty, they used to, this chap he used to well, he lived at West Well, Wheel, West Well, The Wheel, at West Well, the pub.

[028] You know it?

[029] And he used to take'em to France.

[030] And they used to turn'em down wild out there for to destroy the vermine, in the forests.

[031] [INT] Hhm.

[032] And father had that job, and then he took a contract with G. Webb and Company, poulterers, at Canterbury, to supply'em with so many head of poultry a week.

[033] And us boys used to go round the farms, and he used to give us sovereigns; an - always golden sovereigns it was, and sh- silver; and go round, he used tell

[017] And he used to generally give him what it cost, so he didn't lose too much money.

[018] That was agreed between them. [019] And what he did with them, I think, they went to France for meat.

[020] They eat a lot of horse meat in France, see, and I think these horses that weren't genuine, that you couldn't recommend, they were shipped over to

[021] Because he lived at Folkestone, and I know my father then, he used to buy a lot of ferrets.

[022] You know what a ferret is.

France.

[023] And they all used to be shipped to France.

[024] He used to get perhaps twenty on the farm, and us boys had to feed'em.

[025] And the devils used to bite us! You know, when we put the grub into'em, they'd grab for their food - bread and milk they used to have - and they used to grab your hand, if you weren't careful. [026] So my brother used to take an old rope, up the other side of the hutch and shake it like that, and they used to run over there, while I put the food in. [027] And that's the way we used to do it, and then when he got about twenty, they used to, this chap he used to - well, he lived at West Well, Wheel, West Well, The Wheel, at West Well, the pub.

[028] You know it?

[029] And he used to take'em to France.

[030] And they used to turn'em down wild out there for to destroy the vermin, in the forests.

[031] [INT] Hhm.

[032] And father had that job, and then he took a contract with G. Webb and Company, poulterers, at Canterbury, to supply'em with so many head of poultry a week.

[033] And us boys used to go round the farms, and he used to give us sovereigns; and always golden sovereigns it was, and silver; and we used to go round, he



us what to give for these chicken and old hens.

[034] The old hens he used to send to London; we used to put'em on rail, and the chicken we used to take to Webb's, at Canterbury, poultry shop.

[035] He'd take anything up to two hundred a week.

[036] [INT] How did you used to get about the countryside?

[037] Well, you'd ride the pony and cart.

[038] [INT] Even as a kid?

[039] We used to keep two ponies, father did, and he got a four-wheel van and a two-wheel cart.

[040] And we got a pig cart, with a little tiny hole in the back, so as, when you bought small pigs, you whip'em through the hole, see, if you put your tailboard down, while you put one in, one would jump out, wouldn't it?

[041] So these, it was made like that.

[042] That you'd just open it and put your pig in, see - he had net over the top, so he couldn't get out.

[043] And eh, I, well, as I was saying, at twelve years old, the first job he gave me was: go down to Court's, at Fisher Street you know where that is?

[044] Just out here, Jack Court's - and pick up twelve pigs, little pigs, and take to Ashford Market.

[045] That was the first job I done, with a pony.

[046] And I took the van down there, and I collected these pigs.

[047] He said, take'em to Ashford Market, and put'em in Haynes's auction.

[048] I'll be down there, I got to go to Stalisfield for some calves.

[049] So, as I was going in Ashford Market - I'd been with him dozens of times like before I done work, I knew the way and all - as I was going in the market, some man come up to me, he says, Where you gonna take those pigs, boy?

[050] I said, in the market, and he said, whose auction?

used tell us what to give for these chicken and old hens.

[034] The old hens he used to send to London; we used to put'em on rail, and the chicken we used to take to Webb's, at Canterbury, poultry shop.

[035] He'd take anything up to two hundred a week.

[036] [INT] How did you used to get about the countryside?

[037] Well, you'd ride the pony and cart.

[038] [INT] Even as a kid?

[039] We used to keep two ponies, father did, and he got a four-wheel van and a two-wheel cart.

[040] And we got a pig cart, with a little tiny hole in the back, so as, when you bought small pigs, you whip'em through the hole, see, if you put your tailboard down, while you put one in, one would jump out, wouldn't it?

[041] So these, it was made like that.

[042] That you'd just open it and put your pig in, see - he had net over the top, so it couldn't get out.

[043] And well, as I was saying, at twelve years old, the first job he gave me was: go down to Court's, at Fisher Street - you know where that is?

[044] Just out here, Jack Court's - he told me to and pick up twelve pigs, little pigs, and take them to Ashford Market.

[045] That was the first job I had done, with a pony.

[046] And I took the van down there, and I collected these pigs.

[047] He said, take'em to Ashford Market, and put'em in Haynes's auction.

[048] I'll be down there, I got to go to Stalisfield for some calves.

[049] So, as I was going to Ashford Market - I'd been with him dozens of times like before I did work, I knew the way and all - as I was going to the market, some man came up to me, he said, Where are you going to take those pigs, boy?

[050] I said, to the market, and he said, whose auction?



[051] I says, Ford Thorps.

[052] Go and put them in mine, he says, here's threepence.

[053] In Haynes's, put them in the first place you come to, he says.

[054] So, I took this threepence, and done as I was told, put them in the first place I come to.

[055] Well, my father was - I put the pony away, he always used to have two st- two stables up at Merrill's, eh Me- Merrill's yard; he used to hire'em every Tuesevery Tuesday the year they reserved'em for him, see.

[056] And I put the pony out there, walked back down the b- Bank Street to the market, and my father was in there.

[057] He says, I can't find those pigs.

[058] Says, where are they?

[059] I said, here they are.

[060] And I showed'im.

[061] He's, didn't I tell you to put them in Ford Thorps?

[062] I said, well, some bloke give me threepence to put them in there, he said, well, that's Mr Haynes.

[063] And he boxed my ears, and he said, now shift'em!

[064] That was the first experience of going to Ashford Market, and I told that to Mr Haynes not more than six months ago - his grandson.

[065] Yeah.

[066] [INT] Hhm. What, was there rivalry betwen these?

[067] Heh?

[068] [INT] Was there rivalry between Haynes?

[069] Oh, yes, yes.

[070] Opposite to one another, see.

[071] Yeah.

[072] [INT] Hhm.

[073] And anyway, I had to, well, 'course, I got these twelve pigs to shift, and Ford Thorps sent a man up to help me do it,

[074] Father wouldn't help me, you know.

[075] He said, no, shift'em.

[051] I said, Ford Thorps.

[052] Go and put them in mine, he said, here's threepence.

[053] In Haynes's, put them in the first place you come to, he said.

[054] So, I took this threepence, and did as I was told, and put them in the first place I came to.

[055] I put the pony away; my father always used to have two stables up at Merrill's yard; he used to hire'em every Tuesday the year they reserved'em for him, see.

[056] And I put the pony out there, walked back down the Bank Street to the market, and my father was in there.

[057] He said, I can't find those pigs.

[058] He said, where are they?

[059] I said, here they are.

[060] And I showed'im.

[061] He said, didn't I tell you to put them in Ford Thorps?

[062] I said, well, some bloke give me threepence to put them in there; he said, well, that's Mr Haynes.

[063] And he boxed my ears, and he said, now shift'em!

[064] That was the first experience of going to Ashford Market, and I told that to Mr Haynes not more than six months ago - his grandson.

[065] Yeah.

[066] [INT] Hhm. What, was there rivalry betwen these?

[067] Heh?

[068] [INT] Was there rivalry between Haynes?

[069] Oh, yes, yes.

[070] They were opposite to one another, see.

[071] Yeah.

[072] [INT] Hhm.

[073] And anyway, of course I got these twelve pigs to shift, and Ford Thorps sent a man up to help me do it, see.

[074] Father wouldn't help me, you know.

[075] He said, no, shift'em.



[076] And you'll earn that threepence, he says.

[077] And that's the way I started work.

[078] And gradually, we got into a way of riding these ponies and, all the - wicked, you'd never believe what horses can do, if they're not broken properly.

[079] If they're not broken properly, when they're young.

[080] We've had'em.

[081] I, he, he come home with a cob one day, that was a beautiful-looking thing.

[082] I was about fifteen.

[083] And he says, put tha' pony in, he says, and - in the cart, and let's try him, he says, I want that for Tom Smith at Faversham, if it suits him.

[084] And eh, so I put this pony in the cart.

[085] Hadn't got out the gate, I said, this is a napper.

[086] He says, you think so?, I says, I can see it is.

[087] I looked at his old ears.

[088] And I was a - only about fifteen to sixteen.

[089] You could see his ears coming back - when a horse lays his ears back, you know he means business.

[090] He's up to some trick.

[091] And he got out in the road, stopped dead, father well he was - and he wouldn't go no further, you know.

[092] And I can see my father now; he always had a ash stick, crooked ash stick; he's left-handed - and he stood up in the alongside the - alongside of the eh eh van, and he hit that horse - pony up the ribs as hard as he could hit him with his stick, and the pony jumped, and the thirlpin of the van snapped, we dropped in the road, and I never, oh I never done so much laughing in my life.

[093] [INT] How did you get him back?

[094] Oh, catched him, well, we went after him, catched him.

[095] Got out, put another pony in the cart, and went and fetched him.

[076] And you'll earn that threepence, he said.

[077] And that's the way I started work.

[078] And gradually, we got into a way of riding these ponies and; oh, the wicked things, you'd never believe what horses can do, if they're not broken properly.

[079] If they're not broken properly, when they're young.

[080] We've had'em.

[081] He came home with a cob one day, that was a beautiful-looking thing.

[082] I was about fifteen.

[083] And he said, put that pony in the cart, and let's try him, I want that for Tom Smith at Faversham, if it suits him.

[084] And so I put this pony in the cart.

[085] We hadn't got out the gate and I said, this is a napper.

[086] He said, you think so? I said, I can see it is.

[087] I looked at his old ears.

[088] And I was only about fifteen to sixteen.

[089] You could see his ears coming back - when a horse lays his ears back, you know he means business.

[090] He's up to some trick.

[091] And he got out in the road and stopped dead, and he wouldn't go no further, you know.

[092] And I can see my father now; he always had an ash stick, a crooked ash stick; he's left-handed - and he stood up alongside of the van, and he hit that pony up the ribs as hard as he could hit him with his stick, and the pony jumped, and the thirlpin of the van snapped, we dropped in the road, and the pony went up the road, and I've never, oh I've never done so much laughing in my life.

[093] [INT] How did you get him back?

[094] Oh, we caught him; well, we went after him, and caught him.

[095] We got out, put another pony in the cart, and went and fetched him.



[096] [INT] Whose job was it to break these horses then?

[097] Well, wherever w-, we didn't know who broke them; we bought them - they warranted them, see, they - they was all rogues, horse dealers were all rogues.

[098] They'd warrant it; they, long as they got them sovereigns and got rid of their horse, they was landed.

[099] Wadn't no law.

[100] See, you couldn't take a man to court for that job, not them days.

[101] Eh, that was a tricky job.

[102] [INT] What sort of places did he, did he buy from then?

[103] Ooh, farms or dealers or anybody.

[104] Dealers, most of 'em.

[105] We had a lot of horses out of London, what was - they break their horses in London.

[106] They only last in London two year, you know, on - them days.

[107] This's slippery, you know, and smooth, and then got, they used to put two ton behind one big horse, you know.

[108] Didn't want no pulling, only starting and stopping, you see.

[109] And it took it so much out of the horse's legs, the horse's front legs used to go over like that - bent.

[110] Then they, we used to buy them, they used to come back on the farms, and they used to recover.

[111] 'Cause they were only six, seven year old, you see.

[112] Then we used to get'em used to farmwork and then sell them to the farmers round about.

[113] [INT] How did you bring them down from London?

[114] Huh?

[115] [INT] Did you, did you-

[116] Walk'em!

[117] [INT] All the way?

[118] How, how other could you bring them?

[119] No, all - there were chaps up there used ehr to bring them down, at the mart,

[096] [INT] Whose job was it to break these horses then?

[097] Well, we didn't know who broke them; we bought them - they warranted them, see; they were all rogues, horse dealers were all rogues.

[098] They'd warrant it; as long as they got the sovereigns and got rid of their horse, they were landed.

[099] There was no law.

[100] See, you couldn't take a man to court for that job, not in those days.

[101] Eh, that was a tricky job.

[102] [INT] What sort of places did he buy from then?

[103] Ooh, from farms or dealers or anybody.

[104] Dealers, most of 'em.

[105] We had a lot of horses out of London; they break their horses in London.

[106] They only last in London two year, you know, in these days.

[107] It's slippery there, you know, and smooth, and then used to put two ton behind one big horse, you know.

[108] They didn't want no pulling, only starting and stopping, you see.

[109] And it took it so much out of the horse's legs, the horse's front legs used to go over like that - bent.

[110] Then we used to buy them, they used to come back on the farms, and they used to recover.

[111] Because they weren't only six, seven years old, you see.

[112] Then we used to get'em used to farmwork and then sell them to the farmers round about.

[113] [INT] How did you bring them down from London?

[114] Huh?

[115] [INT] Did you, did you-

[116] Walk'em!

[117] [INT] All the way?

[118] How, what other way could you bring them?

[119] No, there were chaps up there that used to bring them down, at the mart,



and they used to say, where you wanna go to?

[120] And we used tell'em, Close Faversham.

[121] And, oh, I know that, and perhaps he'd bring about four, down, see?

[122] Em- pe- for other buyer - perhaps we'd buy two, and another farmer b- buy one; they used to come down together; perhaps two or three of them used to come down and, with about a dozen old horses, out of London; stop at every pub, time they got down here, they was all pretty near boozed.

[123] Yeah.

[124] [INT] Couldn't they bring them on the train?

[125] No.

[126] They couldn't have them on a train; be like the donkey - gypsy of the - what's the name donkey, wouldn't it?

[127] I say it'd be like the gypsy's donkey, wouldn't it?

[128] [INT] What's that? Gypsy's?

[129] Donkey.

[130] Two old gypsies bought a - got a donkey up in Lon-, bought a donkey in London, you know, or a, in a town somewhere, and it - they told us that it was true.

[131] And one got the guard, in out the guard's van to go and have a drink with him, and he whipped the donkey in the guard's van to get it - get him down on the train, you see.

[132] And old guard come back, and he tied him on the back.

[133] And he said, I bet old Jamie's legging it now.

[134] And the old train was coming in.

[135] Yeah.

[136] Oh, we've had some fun.

[137] We made fun of our life.

[138] We enjoyed my life anyway.

[139] [INT] Hhm.

[140] If I didn't work so hard, I'd enjoyed, I'd - enjoyed it till father took more ground.

and they used to say, where you wanna go to?

[120] And we used tell'em, close Faversham.

[121] And they'd say, oh, I know that; and perhaps he'd bring about four down, see?

[122] Perhaps we'd buy two, and another farmer would buy one; they used to come down together; perhaps two or three of them used to come down, with about a dozen old horses, out of London; and they'd stop at every pub, by time they got down here, they were all pretty near boozed.

[123] Yeah.

[124] [INT] Couldn't they bring them on the train?

[125] No.

[126] They couldn't have them on a train; it'd be like the donkey - what's the name, donkey, wouldn't it?

[127] I say it'd be like the gypsy's donkey, wouldn't it?

[128] [INT] What's that? Gypsy's?

[129] Donkey.

[130] Two old gypsies bought a donkey in London, you know, or in a town somewhere - they told us that it was true.

[131] And one got the guard out the guard's van to go and have a drink with him, and he whipped the donkey into the guard's van to get him down on the train, you see.

[132] And old guard came back, and he tied him on the back.

[133] And he said, I bet old Jamie's legging it now.

[134] And the old train was coming in.

[135] Yeah.

[136] Oh, we've had some fun.

[137] We made fun of our life.

[138] I enjoyed my life anyway.

[139] [INT] Hhm.

[140] If I didn't work so hard, I'd enjoyed it till father took my ground.



[141] And then took me, put me in, in control.

[142] He, he got too big a business to do anything on the farm, and he, and he said, well, you'll have to look after the farm now, and you can look after the horses and that when I come home.

[143] And I was all alone on thirty acres.

[144] [INT] How old were you then?

[145] Uhm, sixteen; fifteen, sixteen.

[146] [INT] It was, it was actually a farm he had at Molash, was it?

[147] Hhm?

[148] [INT] It was actually a farm he had?

[149] Yeah, he bought it.

[150] [INT] (unintelligible crosstalk)

[151] He bought it off the eh, when they sold the outlying farms, from eh Eastwell Park Estate.

[152] [INT] Hhm.

[153] Lord Grand.

[154] [INT] This would be about,

eight een-nineties?

[155] Oohh.

[156] [INT] How old were you?

[157] Hhm?

[158] [INT] How old were you, for-?

[159] Well, it was, I was about fifteen.

[160] See?

[161] [INT] What had he had for his horse premises before? You know.

[162] Hhm?

[163] [INT] What had he, what'd he started off as, as a horse buyer?

[164] Oh, he, he had these little m-ponies in the other place, over the road; we had two places here.

[165] And he, the house we come in first, we didn't stop long.

[166] Wadn't big, it was only about acre of ground, and then we bought this farm were up for sale, and we went over there - bought that.

[167] [INT] Where did he get the money from, if he'd only been a, a shepherd? Did he-

[168] Where did they get it?

[169] Saved it.

[170] Mother worked in, eh - worked hard.

[141] And then put me in control.

[142] He got too big a business to do anything on the farm, and he said, well, you'll have to look after the farm now, and you can look after the horses and that when I come home.

[143] And I was all alone on thirty acres.

[144] [INT] How old were you then?

[145] Uhm, sixteen; fifteen or sixteen.

[146] [INT] It actually a farm he had at Molash, was it?

[147] Hhm?

[148] [INT] It was actually a farm he had?

[149] Yeah, he bought it.

[150] [INT] (unintelligible crosstalk)

[151] He bought it off the Eastwell Park Estate when they sold the outlying farms.

[152] [INT] Hhm.

[153] Lord Grand.

[154] [INT] This would be about,

eighteen-nineties?

[155] Oohh.

[156] [INT] How old were you?

[157] Hhm?

[158] [INT] How old were you then?

[159] Well, I was about fifteen.

[160] See?

[161] [INT] What did he have for his horse premises before? You know.

[162] Hhm?

[163] [INT] What did he have starting off as a horse buyer?

[164] Oh, he had these little ponies in the other place, over the road; we had two places here.

[165] At the house we came in first, we didn't stop long.

[166] It wasn't big, it was only about an acre of ground, and then we bought this farm when it was up for sale, and we went over there and bought that.

[167] [INT] Where did he get the money from, if he'd only been a shepherd?

[168] Where did they get it?

[169] He saved it.

[170] Mother worked worked hard.



- [171] And we all worked.
- [172] And you didn't spend threepence, where tuppence would do, you know.
- [173] Well, what's your farm cost?
- [174] [INT] Hhm.
- [175] Three cottages, and thirty-one acres - five-hundred pound.
- [176] How was that then?
- [177] Three cottages.
- [178] Oh I think the bank or, somebody helped mi dad with the money.
- [179] Mother did, I know, mother was very thrifty.
- [180] She'd got quite a bit of money, and just like my wife: don't let ...
- [181] He's just the same.
- [182] She's just the same.
- [183] Put your foot on that.
- [184] [INT] How did your father start off dealing? Where did he get the contacts? Do you know that?
- [185] In a pub.
- [186] All the business was done in pubs.
- [187] They was open all day, you know.
- [188] It was never closed.
- [189] Six o'clock, you go in the pub at six o'clock and get some beer, and you go in there at twelve o'clock and get some beer; nobody said nothing about it.
- [190] And we'd go on a farm, and perhaps somebody s- like the grapevine would come to my father that John Norman had got a pony for sale.
- [191] My father'd slip up, get a pony in, go off and have a look at this pony.
- [192] Got a pony for sale, John?
- [193] He said, yep.
- [194] He says, have a look at him, try him.
- [195] Warrant him?
- [196] Yeah.
- [197] Every way?
- [198] If father knowed the man, he'd know his warranty was good.
- [199] If he, he'd know if it wadn't, too.
- [200] Well, put him in, let's try him.
- [201] So they'd put this pony in the
- harness, try him, drive him up and down the road.
- [202] And my father'd have all manners

- [171] And we all worked.
- [172] And you didn't spend threepence, where tuppence would do, you know.
- [173] Well, what's your farm cost?
- [174] [INT] Hhm.
- [175] Three cottages, and thirty-one acres
- five-hundred pound.
- [176] How was that then?
- [177] Three cottages.
- [178] Oh, I think the bank or somebody helped my dad with the money.
- [179] Mother did, I know, mother was very thrifty.
- [180] She'd got quite a bit of money, and just like my wife: don't let (unintelligible)
- [181] He's just the same.
- [182] She's just the same.
- [183] Put your foot on that.
- [184] [INT] How did your father start off dealing? Where did he get the contacts? Do you know that?
- [185] In a pub.
- [186] All the business was done in pubs.
- [187] They were open all day, you know.
- [188] They were never closed.
- [189] You went to the pub at six o'clock and got some beer, and you went in there at twelve o'clock and got some beer, and nobody said nothing about it.
- [190] And we'd go on a farm, and perhaps somebody would come to my father and say that John Norman had got a pony for sale.
- [191] My father'd slip up, get a pony in, go off and have a look at this pony.
- [192] Got a pony for sale, John?
- [193] He said, yep.
- [194] He said, have a look at him, try him.
- [195] Did you warrant him?
- [196] Yeah.
- [197] Every way?
- [198] If father knew the man, he'd know his warranty was good.
- [199] He'd know if it wasn't, too.
- [200] Well, put him in, let's try him.
- [201] So they'd put this pony in the
- harness, try him, drive him up and down the road.
- [202] And my father'd have all manners



of tricks.

[203] When he g-, as he says, drive him by me! he whip a white handkerchief out and shake it; and if the pony didn't take notice, he wadn't a shyer.

[204] See?

[205] And, eh, he said, drive him by his farm - his house, where he'd stopped.
[206] Now this, in nine horses out of ten, if you'd try to drive them by where they st-, their home was, where they'd been, they'd pull in, you know, try to go in the yard.

[207] And eh, but if you just touch'em that side with the whip gently - had a long whip, always had a whip - just touch'em that side, they go straight on.

[208] They knowed.

[209] If they didn't, they'd have it slashed up their ribs quick.

[210] And the horses were very sensitive.

[211] My father then, he, he bought a waggonette.

[212] You know what that is?

[213] A four-wheeled trap for taking people to station.

[214] And we had quite a business.

[215] People would ge - the old parson always used to get us to take him, out to some other parson, house to tea and lunch and that.

[216] And I, I used to drive him, just dress miself up and drive him there, and perhaps earn ten bob.

[217] We used take people to Chilham Station from Molash for half a crown.

[218] Take'em down there.

[219] Or go and fetch them back for half a

[220] And gradually we built a business up, and had quite a smart turnout, my father did.

[221] And I used to look after that as well when he was gone.

[222] Well then we used to keep a grey pony - our Jimmy, we used to call him - he was a, a pony we used to use for the weddings.

of tricks.

[203] When he'd say, drive him by me, he'd whip a white handkerchief out and shake it; and if the pony didn't take notice, he wasn't a shyer.

[204] See?

[205] And he said, drive him by his farm - his house, where he'd stopped.

[206] Now this, in nine horses out of ten, if you'd try to drive them by where their home was, where they'd been, they'd pull in, you know, and try to go in the yard.

[207] But if you just touch'em on that side with the whip gently - you'd have a long whip, always have a whip - if you just touch'em on that side, they'd go straight on.

[208] They knew.

[209] If they didn't, they'd have it slashed up their ribs quick.

[210] And the horses were very sensitive.

[211] My father then, he bought a waggonette.

[212] You know what that is?

[213] A four-wheeled trap for taking people to station.

[214] And we had quite a business.

[215] The old parson always used to get us to take him, out to some other parson's house to tea and lunch and that.

[216] And I used to drive him, I'd just dress myself up and drive him there, and perhaps earn ten bob.

[217] We used take people to Chilham Station from Molash for half a crown.

[218] Take'em down there.

[219] Or go and fetch them back for half a

[220] And gradually we built a business up, and my father had quite a smart turnout.

[221] And I used to look after that as well when he was gone.

[222] Well then we used to keep a grey pony - our Jimmy, we used to call him - he was a pony we used to use for the weddings.



- [223] Take people to rr-, when they got married, see, church.
- [224] If it wasn't only the half a mile, we used take old the old pony to church.
- [225] Hhm.
- [226] You know where Molash Church is?
- [227] [INT] Not quite.
- [228] Oh, I did, I was in the choir for eleven year, at Molash Church.
- [229] I sang in the choir.
- [230] Pretty near all the boys was really religious, you know, their parents there wadn't the crime there is today.
- [231] Nothing like.
- [232] Well, there wadn't the population, was there?
- [233] [INT] Could I ask you about the house, horse dealing again? Did you ever go up to London with your father?
- [234] Hhm? No.
- [235] [INT] Did you...You never went?
- [236] No.
- [237] No, I never went, to London, no.
- [238] [INT] Did he ever tell you tales about it?
- [239] We used to eh, they eh, we used to have a, in April, I think it was in April every year, the eh yeomanry.
- [240] You've heard of the yeomanry, have you?
- [241] They used to, the farmers' sons, used to hire a horse off father, for to ride in the yeomanry.
- [242] They had to go up for a fortnight's training, see.
- [243] So father used to get quite three four of these horses about, and buy them purpose for the job.
- [244] Charge'em five pound for a fortnight.
- [245] 'at was a lot of money.
- [246] But, perhaps the horse wasn't much good time they done with it.
- [247] And eh, me and my brother had to make sure these horses would, would take the saddle, see, there some horses didn't like people on their backs, you see; never had nobody on their back.
- [248] And father used to put saddle

- [223] We'd take people to church, when they got married, see.
- [224] If it wasn't only the half a mile, we used take the old pony to church.
- [225] Hhm.
- [226] You know where Molash Church is?
- [227] [INT] Not quite.
- [228] Oh, I was in the choir for eleven years, at Molash Church.
- [229] I sang in the choir.
- [230] Pretty near all the boys were really religious, you know there wasn't the crime there is today.
- [231] Nothing like.
- [232] Well, there wasn't the population, was there?
- [233] [INT] Could I ask you about the horse dealing again? Did you ever go up to London with your father?
- [234] Hhm? No.
- [235] [INT] You never went?
- [236] No.
- [237] No, I never went to London, no.
- [238] [INT] Did he ever tell you tales about it?
- [239] We used to have the yeomanry, in April I think it was in April every year.
- [240] You've heard of the yeomanry, have you?
- [241] The farmers' sons used to hire a horse off father, for to ride in the yeomanry.
- [242] They had to go up for a fortnight's training, see.
- [243] So father used to get quite three or four of these horses about, and buy them purpose for the job.
- [244] He used to charge'em five pound for a fortnight.
- [245] That was a lot of money.
- [246] But, perhaps the horse wasn't much good by the time they were done with it.
- [247] And me and my brother had to make sure these horses would take the saddle, see; there are some horses that didn't like people on their backs, you see; they never had nobody on their back.
- [248] And father used to put a saddle



on'em, and, go on up there you go, and bunt us up on'em, and off we used to go sometimes we fell off, sometimes we went off at a gallop and didn't know how to stop and had all manner of capers.

[249] Hhm.

[250] Anyway, I was riding one one day father put me up on one.

[251] He says, walk him down the field, he says, and gallop back.

[252] So, I walked him down the field, and he walked quite sure and galloped back, and there was a sheep hurdle in the middle.

[253] See?

[254] And the blooming thing went straight for this sheep hurdle and jumped it.

[255] Did jar, pretty near jarred my inside out when he landed.

[256] I never forget it, I wasn't very old then; I must have been about fifteen.

[257] And father says, he'll do.

[258] And that were just the horse, for the yeomanry, you see.

[259] [INT] Hhm. Who, who were the people that's hired them up, the...?

[260] Oh, farmers' sons, yes - Tim Fennel from Faversham, people from the towns. [261] Tim Fennel from Faversham knew, he belonged to it, and he tried to get me to.

[262] Stan Howl he belonged to it.

[263] He was at Drylands, Molash.

[264] I used to have to always find him one; he used to find Tim Fennel one.

[265] Andy Fennel his brother, he used to have one.

[266] Oh, we used to buy abouts...

[267] I think we had six, about six customers.

[268] And they were a year occurrence, you see.

[269] For several years, I don't know, it finished up when the 'Fourteen War come, didn't it?

[270] That's when it finished.

[271] [INT] Did he ever sell horses for things like hunting, or?

on'em, and say, go on up, there you go, and bunt us up on'em, and off we used to go - sometimes we fell off, sometimes we went off at a gallop and didn't know how to stop, and had all manner of capers. [249] Hhm.

[250] Anyway, I was riding one one day father put me up on one.

[251] He said, walk him down the field and gallop back.

[252] So, I walked him down the field, and he walked quite sure and galloped back, and there was a sheep hurdle in the middle.

[253] See?

[254] And the blooming thing went straight for this sheep hurdle and jumped it.

[255] It pretty near jarred my inside out when he landed.

[256] I'll never forget it, I wasn't very old then; I must have been about fifteen.

[257] And father said, he'll do.

[258] And that was just the horse for the yeomanry, you see.

[259] [INT] Hhm. Who were the people that hired them?

[260] Oh, farmers' sons - Tim Fennel from Faversham, people from the towns.

[261] Tim Fennel from Faversham knew, he belonged to it, and he tried to get me to.

[262] Stan Howl, he belonged to it.

[263] He was at Drylands, Molash.

[264] I used to have to always find him one; he used to find Tim Fennel one.

[265] Andy Fennel, his brother, he used to have one.

[266] Oh, we used to buy about...

[267] I think we had about six customers.

[268] And they were a yearly occurrence, you see.

[269] For several years; I don't know, it finished up when the 'Fourteen War come, didn't it?

[270] That's when it finished.

[271] [INT] Did he ever sell horses for things like hunting?



[272] No, the old farmers used to own their own horses, didn't keep the horse.

[273] Now this place here, they kept a hunter here.

[274] But it worked on the farm all the year, and then they used to go out hunting, and that's what broke the man, 'cause his son went hunting and got, he was, he's come down from Scotland, this man what had this farm before me; he had it twenty-six years.

[275] And he told me that he, he'd got three thousand pound, when he come down here, from Scotland, and he says, now, Mr Crown, I haven't got three thousand pence.

[276] And I've been here twenty-six years. [277] And I we- sa-, he says, and I've got nowhere to go.

[278] I says, well, you can go over in one of my cottages, I says, and stop there as long as you like rent-free.

[279] And that's where he went and that's where he died.

[280] 'Cause we wanted him out the house to get the house done up, you see, to repair the house - it was in an awful state.

[281] I planted all these hedges.

[282] I planted that orchard.

[283] This house just stood in a meadow, and the cattle and sheep used to lay in the porch, where you come through.

[284] And I laid the lawns and done it all.

[285] I never asked Lord Sourstone for a penny.

[286] [INT] How come he'd, he'd eh done so badly?

[287] Hhm?

[288] [INT] How'd, how come he'd done so badly?

[289] He?

[290] [INT] Hhm. Did he have the...

[291] His son started hunting.

[292] And then it was wine and women.

[293] And he kept a hunter here, and he, he would do his wife; his son's wife was a better man than ever he was - she'd [272] No, the old farmers used to own their own horses, they didn't keep the horse.

[273] Now this place here, they kept a hunter here.

[274] But it worked on the farm all the year, and then they used to go out hunting, and that's what broke the man, because his son went hunting; his father, he had come down from Scotland, this man that had this farm before me; he had it for twenty-six years.

[275] And he told me that he'd got three thousand pound, when he come down here from Scotland, and he said, now, Mr Crown, I haven't got three thousand pence.

[276] And I've been here twenty-six years. [277] And he said, and I've got nowhere to go.

[278] I said, well, you can go over in one of my cottages and stop there as long as you like rent-free.

[279] And that's where he went and that's where he died.

[280] Because we wanted him out the house to get the house done up, you see, to repair the house - it was in an awful state.

[281] I planted all these hedges.

[282] I planted that orchard.

[283] This house just stood in a meadow, and the cattle and sheep used to lay in the porch, where you came through.

[284] And I laid the lawns and done it all.

[285] I never asked Lord Sourstone for a penny.

[286] [INT] How come he'd done so badly?

[287] Hhm?

[288] [INT] How come he'd done so badly?

[289] He?

[290] [INT] Hhm. Did he have the...

[291] His son started hunting.

[292] And then it was wine and women.

[293] And he kept a hunter here, and he would do his wife; his son's wife was a better man than ever he was - she'd



work.

[294] But Haggary - that was the owner of the farm, the tenant of the farm - he was, what shall I say - slow, you know.

[295] He was honest, straight man, but he'd got no gumption of how to do a job. [296] See?

[297] He wouldn't, I've, he, there was a little box there, when I come here first, with the eh, with my eh valuer, and notit - that box struck me comical.

[298] I sit there at the table.

[299] I said, Mr Haggary, what's that little box for up there?

[300] He says - he's Scotch - he says, that, Mr Crown, is where I keep mi guid book - his bible.

[301] And so he kept his bible in that little box.

[302] I take it down every night, he says, and read a chapter.

[303] Ha.

[304] Now he's the sort of man that would rather, he wouldn't miss going to church, if the old cow was calving.

[305] Well you can't farm that ways.

[306] You see the cow's alright, then go to church afterwards.

[307] And if she wadn't alright, you'd go pray for your sins, couldn't you.

[308] And it was just the same the other farm I took, before this.

[309] He was a chapel man; he was bankrupt.

[310] And they let me have that farm three years rent-free, for to put it in order.

[311] As soon as I'd got it in tip-top condition they charged me top rent for it.

[312] 'S how they did this.

[313] I offered them a hundred eighty pound a year for this farm, when I come here, and now we're paying over two thousand, a year.

[314] Huh?

[315] That's hardly fair, you know, after you'd done all that, is it?

[316] I told'em so.

[317] They ain't kept up their agreements, their verbal agreement; when we were

work.

[294] But Haggary - that was the owner of the farm, the tenant of the farm - he was, what shall I say - slow, you know.

[295] He was an honest, straight man, but he'd got no gumption of how to do a job. [296] See?

[297] There was a little box there, when I come here first, with my valuer, and that box struck me comical.

[298] I sat there at the table.

[299] I said, Mr Haggary, what's that little box for up there?

[300] He said - he's Scotch - he said, that, Mr Crown, is where I keep mi guid book - his bible.

[301] And so he kept his bible in that little box.

[302] I take it down every night, he said, and read a chapter.

[303] Ha.

[304] Now he's the sort of man that would rather not miss going to church if the old cow was calving.

[305] Well, you can't farm that way.

[306] You see that the cow's alright, then go to church afterwards.

[307] And if she wasn't alright, you'd go pray for your sins, couldn't you.

[308] And it was just the same with the other farm I took, before this.

[309] He was a chapel man; he was bankrupt.

[310] And they let me have that farm for three years rent-free, for to put it in order.

[311] As soon as I'd got it in tip-top condition they charged me top rent for it.

[312] That's how they did this.

[313] I offered them a hundred eighty pound a year for this farm when I came here, and now we're paying over two thousand a year.

[314] Huh?

[315] That's hardly fair, you know, after you'd done all that, is it?

[316] I told'em so.

[317] They haven't kept up their agreements, their verbal agreement;



boys and men, my word was mi bond.

[318] And always has been.

[319] But - it was with the l- tenants before the agents, before this lot, Strutts and Parkers.

[320] But theirs isn't.

[321] If you ain't got it in writing, they don't take no notice.

[322] [INT] Did it always used to be verbal then, all the agreements with between the tenant-?

[323] Yes, we never used to dream about signing anything, or writing anything, or - five, five out of six of em couldn't write. [324] My father, he couldn't read his own name; couldn't write his own name.

[325] I can remember when I was, the Boer War was on - that's going back some, innit?

[326] My father used to come home from at Canterbury Market, or from town, with a little old paper, he give a penny for, so's I could read out to him what happened in the Boer War.

[327] I can remember that as well...

[328] [INT] Did he ever keep any records of his dealings then? Your father?

[329] My father, never, no - how could he? Only here.

[330] [INT] In his head.

[331] Yeah.

[332] [INT] Hhm.

[333] That's where I kept mine, until it got so big; then I used to have a Collin's notebook.

[334] Ooh, that's on here.

[335] Oh-

when we were boys and men, my word was my bond.

[318] And always has been.

[319] And it was with the tenants before those agents, before this lot, Strutts and Parkers.

[320] Theirs isn't.

[321] If you don't have it in writing, they don't take no notice.

[322] [INT] Did it always used to be verbal then, all the agreements with the tenant?

[323] Yes, we never used to dream about signing anything, or writing anything - five out of six of'em couldn't write.

[324] My father, he couldn't read his own name; he couldn't write his own name. [325] I can remember when the Boer War was on - that's going back some, innit?

[326] My father used to come home from Canterbury Market or from town, with a little old paper, he'd give a penny for, so that I could read out to him what happened in the Boer War.

[327] I can remember that as well...

[328] [INT] Did your father ever keep any records of his dealings then?

[329] My father, never, no - how could he? Only here.

[330] [INT] In his head.

[331] Yeah.

[332] [INT] Hhm.

[333] That's where I kept mine, until it got so big; then I used to have a Collin's notebook.

[334] Ooh, that's on here.

[335] Oh-

Nils N. Schiborr page 15 of 15