

NEW YEAR 1876

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF JOHN THOMAS KENYON



John Thomas Kenyon was the elder son of the village tailor John Kenyon and his wife Mary (nee Hindle). He had two older sisters, Ann and Elizabeth, and a brother, Richard, aged 4 years. At this date the family lived in the corner house between Windy Street and Talbot Street.

John Thomas attended Brabin's School and kept a diary from November 29th 1875 to January 17th 1876, when 10 years old. After the New Year, he became a half-time scholar, working part of each day for his father.

The diary is neatly handwritten in ink; the spelling and punctuation are reproduced here exactly as in the original; occasional notes added in italics for clarification.

Most of the people named are in the Chipping Census 1841 - 1881, available from Chipping Local History Society.

NEW YEARS DAY SATURDAY JANUARY 1st 1876

I got up this morning about 7 O clock and dressed myself and went down the stairs and went down the cellar and watched my sister get coals for the fire and then we came up and I washed myself and then I waited till my breakfast was reddey and then I went out and wheled a barrow for Nichols blackburn and then went in the house and got the brush and swept the pavement and then fetched four can full of water.....and then went home and my sister told us to go round the lanes so we all went part of the way and we played at horses going on the way and I got a stick and whiped them and I got another stick and I made a bow and arrow and we shootted all the way back so we went home and in a while I got my dinner and then part of the way down the lanes and I made another bow and arrow and I gave the other our Richard and we shootted in Chipping and then I went in buck (*Tillotsons*) meadow and watched them shoot they was men shooting so I went back home and put my arrow and bow in the window bottom and went and watched them shoot again so when they had done I went home and said I was going to go with the band so I did do I went with it as far as spring house and other houses and went (*when*) it had done I went home and in a while got my tea and read to my mother in my libary book so after that we shootted with our bow and arrows and then got our supper and went to bed.

SUNDAY JANUARY 2nd

I got up this morning somewhere about 8 O clock and washed myself and dressed myself and got my breakfast and stopped in the house a while and then went out and went to school (*Sunday*) and played a while and then went home and got my libary book and wend to school and got it changed for another and the number was 14 and the name of it was Robinson crusoe so when we was reading our collects the vicar told me to take it home so I did do and I went back to school and in a while went to church and the churching was much the same as the sundays before so at night I read to my mother and Thomas seed so when I had read some my mother read and when she was reading Thomas seed went home he was sleepy so my mother read some more and in a while we went to bed my brother and sister and me.