The house is now occupied by Mr. R. K. Healey and his family but it was built by Charles Tuck, a member of one of Cheltenham's early families. In 1866 Stephen Tuck with his wife, young son and daughter settled on land between the Highway and Charman Road. The family had lived for a time at Wahgunyah on the Murray but the hot climate there made them decide to come south. Stephen's wife, Catherine Benussi came from Wiltshire, England in 1849 as a maid on the staff of Bishop Perry, the first Anglican Bishop of Melbourne.

The Cheltenham land was covered with scrub which Stephen had to clear before he could establish a market garden. He built a house of hand made bricks. Like others in the district he took his produce regularly in a horse-drawn wagon to the Vi:toria Market. Water for the garden and horses and cows came from a spring on the property; Stephen also put down an underground tank. The paddocks contained beautiful wild flowers; after the railway came through in 1881 they were often admired by travellers in the passing trains.

The Tucks were members of St. Matthew's Church and were the first family to rent a pew there at one guinea per year (that word "guinea" will soon begin to have a strange sound). The system of paying pew rents was later replaced by the envelope system.

Misses Daisy and Ivy Tuck, descendants of Stephen and Catherine, recall that at St. Matthews at one time both morning and afternoon Sunday school were held. If a girl attended for a year without missing a Sunday the vicar, Mr. Moorhouse, gave her a copy of "Chatterbox", a popular children's annual of the time. In the Bible class the older girls received a handbag for good attendance. The Sunday School held an annual picnic on Mordialloc beach, travelling there in wagons with seats for about twenty placed round the sides.

Three younger Tucks - Stephen, a policeman and his brothers William and Charles - (who built the Healey house) - settled in Moorabbin. A Tuck street in both Cheltenham and Moorabbin was named after the family.

Two of Catherine Tuck's brothers, Frank and Tom Benussi, were at one time drivers of the horse tram which ran from Sandringham along Beach Road to Cheltenham. (Information from Misses Daisy and Ivy Tuck of Cheltenham).

CENTENARY OF ST. MATTHEW'S, CHELTENHAM

Last month St. Matthew's Church of England, Cheltenham celebrated its centenary. At the morning service nearest the actual anniversary the occasion was remembered with a pageant; children of the Sunday School dressed as members of the Committee which met at the old Exchange Hotel, Cheltenham to plan the church, and as a pioneer family of worshippers. The history of St. Matthews was recorded in our Newsletter of October, 1966, the date of the opening of the new church.