## CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Cheltenham Arts and Crafts Society

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## NEWSLETTER

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The Society meets at the State School, Charman Road, Cheltenham on the 3rd Thursday in each month. (June and July meetings cancelled because of the possibility of bad weather. Next meeting Thursday August 15th).

## THE KENNEDY COTTAGE

The Moorabbin City Council recently discussed a suggestion to purchase an old building which could be moved to a central situation and serve as a museum. One of the buildings which would be suitable is the Kennedy cottage in Bignall Road, East Bentleigh. Its story goes back a hundred years and has been given to the Society by Mr. James Kennedy whose grandfather, also James, was the first of the family in the district. James came from Carrick-on-SUHR Suhr, Tipperary, Ireland. In 1858 he bought the property where the cottage stands from three vendors - Mary Bignell, the Honourable William Highett and a man named Middleton (Mary or one of her family doubtless gave the road its name; a suburb keeps green the memory of Highett). Four generations of Kennedys lived in the old house; a fifth, a baby girl was born there before it was vacated last year.

> Kennedy found the property covered with scrub which had to be cleared before the land could be used for market gardening. Wood for warmth and cooking was in demand in the inner suburbs and James along with some of his neighbours loaded the timber from the ti-trees and wattles and gums on to drays which their horses pulled to an open spot where the St. Kilda Town Hall now stands. There they sold it for 12/- (\$1.40) a load to residents in that area.

James established his market garden and built the back part of the present weatherboard house, including the large kitchen. In those days the kitchen was also the living room, and there,

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