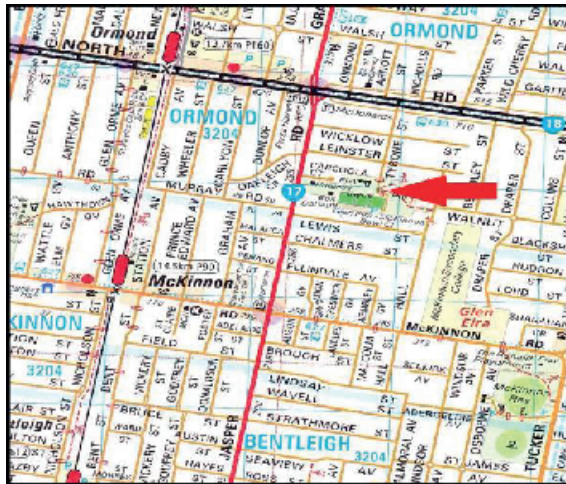


## CONTACT US

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City of Moorabbin Historical Society (CMHS)  
Incorporated in Victoria Reg. No. A0020547E  
Registered with Museums Australia (Vic)

CMHS is proudly supported by the Glen Eira City Council

## JOIN US

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## BOX COTTAGE MUSEUM

The **Box Cottage Museum** houses a collection that reflects the life of residents in the Parish of Moorabbin from the settlement of Brighton in 1841 through the establishment of The Moorabbin Roads Board 1862 to the City of Moorabbin 1934-94.

The **City of Moorabbin Historical Society (CMHS)** was founded in 1960, and is a small not-for-profit organisation devoted to preserving the history and heritage of the former City of Moorabbin. It exists for the benefit of the public as much as for its members.

CMHS acts as custodian of Box Cottage Museum and opens the Cottage and its exhibits for viewing by the public. CMHS also maintains a members library on the area's history, and generally acts as a resource for members of the community with an interest in local and Australian history.

**New members and visitors are most welcome.**

## 1918 CHINESE SILK WEDDING DRESS

Mary Closter from Oakleigh married Alonzo Box, a nephew of William and Elizabeth Box, on June 12<sup>th</sup> 1918 after his return from WW1. Alonzo (1851-1958) was the 9<sup>th</sup> child of William Box's brother, John Box (1841-1913) and his first wife Martha nee Sheldrake.

The wedding dress (right) worn by Mary on her wedding day is on display in the Box Cottage Museum.

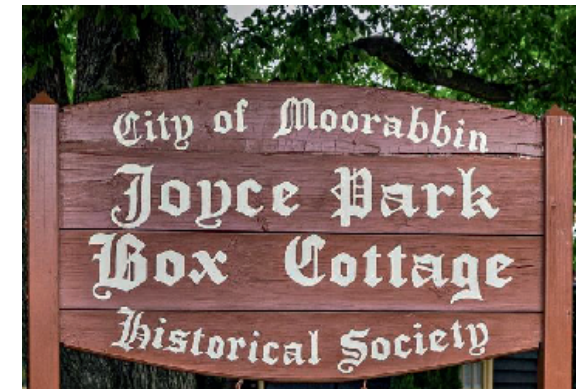
The material was part of a bolt of hand-embroidered silk sent by Mrs Rebecca Viloudakia nee Box, (Alonzo's elder sister). Rebecca was a missionary in China and was married to a silk merchant.



## BOX COTTAGE MUSEUM



Home of the  
City of Moorabbin Historical Society  
Joyce Park, Jasper Rd, Ormond, Vic.  
Melway 68 F10



**OPEN to the PUBLIC**  
last Sunday of the month  
February–November

2pm–4pm or by appointment  
E: [moorabbinhs@gmail.com](mailto:moorabbinhs@gmail.com)

ENTRY Adults gold coin Children FREE

## WILLIAM & ELIZABETH BOX

William Box (1834-1902), woodcutter from Withyham, Sussex, married Elizabeth Avis (1835-1914) in 1854, and arrived in Melbourne aboard the *SS Omega* on 4 May 1855. Thomas Dowling of Merri Creek may have sponsored their immigration, and William probably worked for Dowling for a short time.

By the time their third child was born in 1859, the family had moved to Brighton East (now Bentleigh). At first they leased market garden allotments before purchasing, in 1868 and 1869, the two 10 acre lots with a cottage that had been part of the 'Henry Dendy Special Survey 1841'.



Elizabeth

William

## BOX FAMILY MEMBERS

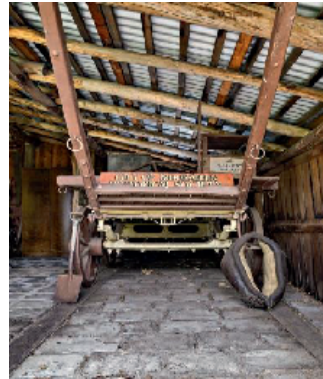
William & Elizabeth prospered as market gardeners and William served as a Moorabbin councillor from 1871-78. William and Elizabeth raised thirteen children and their home was extended in 1888 by the erection of a second dwelling in front of the original cottage. Their family consisted of the following members: -

Esther	Aug 1855 - May 1856
Fanny	1857-1932 m Arthur H Downard 1874
Eleanor	1859-1879
Alice Amelia	1861-1938 m George Dale 1881
Thomas Henry	1863-1906
Annie Lavinia	1865-1918 m Charles Rogers
Arthur Walter	1868-1939 m Dagmar M Nelson 1904
Eliza Cecilia	1870-1936 m James Ainger 1889
George William	1870-1933 m Eliz. Honor Tippet 1902
Emily Caroline	1872-1912 m Hugh Couper
Ada Elizabeth	1874-1940 m James Lyall 1903
Ernest Herbert	1877-1952 m(i) Annie Sharp 1908 m(ii) Florence Kenny 1923
(Edith) Violet	1879-1950 m Cecil Woodman 1924

## LAND

Box Cottage Museum is situated on land that formed part of the 'Henry Dendy Special Survey 1841'. This covered 5120 acres in the area bounded by Port Phillip Bay and East Boundary Road from North Road to South Road. In the 1840's the land was subdivided and William Box purchased two ten acre lots in 1868 & 1869 for a flower nursery and market gardening.

Authentic  
market  
gardeners  
wagon  
and  
plateway  
rails



On  
display  
in the  
Barn

The soil in Brighton East now known as Bentleigh and East Bentleigh was very fertile and well supplied with water. Pioneers established cattle stations, crop farms, vineyards and orchards before developing market gardens, flower nurseries, dairy and poultry farms to supply food for the growing population of Melbourne

## LAND TENURE RECORDS

1841-44	Henry Dendy / J B Were
1844	Jasper Hale buys 2 Lots of 10 acres each
1846	Gregory Nichols " " "
1854	Robert Goodman " " "
1859	Henry Hillier 1 Lot; Richard Fairlam 1 Lot
1865	Richard Philbrick 1 Lot
1868-69	William & Eliz. Box buy both of these Lots
1888	William Box sells 1 Lot & builds 2 <sup>nd</sup> House
1902	William Box died
1908	W Snowden Anderson buys 9 acres-Joyce Park
1914	Eliz. Box died. Ada & Violet keep 1acre & homes
1917-35	August & Frieda Rietman lease the property
1935	August Rietman buys houses and land
1970	Lewis Timber P/L purchase the property
1984	City of Moorabbin reconstructs 'Box Cottage'
1994	City of Glen Eira assumes tenure

## AUGUST RIETMAN & FAMILY

August Rietman (1877-1951), and his wife Frieda (1878-1942), leased the Box Cottage in 1917 and raised two children, Stefanie (1918-2006), and William (1920-1997). August was a monumental mason, potter and sculptor, and was employed to carve war memorials in Victoria post WW1.



Rietman Family c1920

During the mid-1920's August set up his own business and purchased the original Box Cottage, the 2<sup>nd</sup> house and the land in 1935. After August's death the family continued to operate the business and eventually sold the land to Lewis Timber P/L in 1970.

## KITCHEN

Life for the pioneer women was very difficult as many had a baby nearly every year.

Daily life revolved around cooking on the open fire in summer and winter as well as washing, ironing, cleaning, dressmaking and mending.

They sought some comfort from the local religious services and social gatherings that were usually held on Sundays.

