

Newsletter of the Family History Group, West Auckland Historical Society and Waitakere Branch, NZ Society of Genealogists

Convenors Message

New Year greetings to all .

With the end of January comming and the summer holidays nearly over it is back to our normal timetable of events both at Mill Cottage and the West Auckland Research Centre.

Over the Christmas Break I have been doing a little research using Papers Past from the National Library. Early New Zealand Newspapers and other material is added regularly and some papers are available with publishing dates into the 1950's.

With this in mind, when I heard on National Radio an interview about the history of ice cream in New Zealand. The history of ice cream started when blocks of ice were carved from Wenham Lake in Wenham, Massachusetts USA. Railed to the nearest port and shipped around the world to those who could afford it, so the making of ice cream wouldn't be cheap.

A search of Papers Past came up with an advertisement in the news paper - Wellington Independent, Volume XXI, Issue 2317, 1 February 1866, Page 8. The advert in the hotels section inserted by the Proprietor of the Empire Hotel in Wellington advising that he had imported at considerable expense, Ice from Lake Wenham. He would be serving on Saturday (today) at eleven AM, Ice Cream, also ice Claret punch. Also Ice Cream at Dinner on Sunday at 1:30 pm.

So, if you are writing up your family history and are looking for some interesting history or snippets to add, remember Papers Past.

Gary Snow

Your Research

We remain prepared to help you with your research. To achieve this, contact me or Gary and we will organise for us to meet at Mill Cottage, or another place to suit.

For covid contact tracing, Mill Cottage has the tracing app barcode signs at each entrance door.

I hope you are able make use of our current freedom and are getting lots of research done.

Regards, John

Family in Focus

January/February 2021

Group Meetings

**Waitakere Central Library,
Research West**

10am to 11.30 am, every 2nd
Tuesday of the Month,
February to December.

Mill Cottage

Every 3rd Thursday of the
month at 7pm.

Every 2nd & 4th Saturday
morning of the month at 11am,
John Soppet and Gary Snow
are rostered on duty at Mill
Cottage. Close 3pm.

Door Charges:

Henderson Central Library
Gold coin donation.

Mill Cottage. \$2.00

Contacts

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Use CloudConvert to Convert a File from One Format to Another

By an Anonymous contributor to Dick Eastman's newsletter

Here is a web site you probably should bookmark: <https://cloudconvert.com> You probably won't need to use it often but when you do have a need it can be a lifesaver. Best of all, it is a free service if you only want to convert a few files. However, if you want to convert dozens of files, there is a modest charge.

CloudConvert converts almost any file from one format to almost any other format. It recognizes files in more than 200 different formats, and connects with Box, Dropbox, Google Drive, and OneDrive. I find it useful for converting PNG images into JPG format. It also can turn a PDF file into a DOCX file, which you may open in Microsoft Word, LibreOffice, or Google Docs. It also can convert Macintosh Keynote presentation files into PowerPoint PPTX files. In fact, CloudConvert can convert about 200 different file formats into other file formats.

I find that CloudConvert does an excellent job of converting PDF files into editable .DOC or .DOCX files as its translation seems to be very accurate.

CloudConvert also allows you to extract audio from a video file. For example, I selected a .MOV file and converted it to .MP3 format. That gave me an audio-only .MP3 file. It also converts .MOV video files into .MP4 video files as well. Did you download a video from the web, only to find it doesn't display in your computer's video player? CloudConvert probably can fix the problem for you.

CloudConvert is a cloud-based application. That is, the program runs from a web site. There is no software to install in your computer. It works equally well on Windows, Macintosh, Linux, Chromebooks, and even on mobile and portable devices running Android or Apple iOS (iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch).

For occasional use, CloudConvert doesn't charge. If you convert files smaller than 1 gigabyte, fewer than five files at a time, and use less than 25 minutes of file conversion time a day, CloudConvert's services are free of charge. For high volume users, CloudConvert does charge fees as described at <https://cloudconvert.com/pricing>. I suspect most in-home users will never encounter a need for fees.



CloudConvert is one of those useful web tools that you may not need immediately. But, the next time you say, "I can't open this file...", give it a try. CloudConvert may be able to convert that file you can't use into one you can.

CloudConvert is available at <https://cloudconvert.com>.

Note: I converted an excel file to OpenOffice spreadsheet very quickly and accurately - John

Family History Software Update Roots Magic

Many of you will know that my preferred family history software is Roots Magic 7. Recently, I became a beta tester for Roots Magic 8.

This version is a complete rewrite and looks completely different, while retaining all the functionality of version 7.

Roots magic developer, Bruce Busby, has not yet committed to a public release date for the software and will not release it until both the Windows and Mac versions are running properly.

Meanwhile, I have created a new database for my brother-in-law's family, which is running very well. I am having very little trouble with it. It's been a learning curve for me, having to get to grips with a new layout of the software and finding it highlights errors in some of my data entry methods. So the end result is good.

Roots Magic 8 is now in community preview mode so I am able to demonstrate it. If you want to see it, visit me at Mill Cottage.

John Soppet

