

christabel

Vicky Alexander
Notes from NATIONAL ARCHIVES Monday 29 July 1985

CYCLOPAEDIA OF NEW ZEALAND
Wellington

PROUSE BROTHERS
James, Richard, John and John Wright, Timber Merchants
Mereroa saumills Levin; Wellington Yard & Office Dixon Street

The late Mr Richard Prouse, father of three of the partners, arrived in Port Nicholson in the month of February 1840 in the 'Duke of Roxburgh'. He turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, but gradually drifted into the timber trade. The firm was established in 1870.

Dear Chris - they have their facts a bit
twisted here haven't they? - Richard 1st
was dead by 1875 - surely they mean
'grandfather of the three ---'

Ref: 1858 J46-3

Inquisition on GEORGE PROUSE, 6 March 1858 filed 9 April 1859

Chris

Information of Witnesses taken this 6th day of March in the District of Wainuiomata at the Hutt at the house of William Wakeham in the said District before Benjamin Buck Coronor for the District of the Hutt, touching the death of George prouse then and there lying dead as follows:

MARY JANE WAKEHAM examined being sworn states that the deceased child GEORGE PROUSE was left in her charge yesterday March 5. She left the deceased child in charge of some other children while she went away to turn the pigs out of the potatoes. She had left the child before the same day, in order to turn the pigs out and the child had remained quietly with the others, no accident occurring. When witness returned after a quarter hours absence, she missed the child and looked about everywhere but did not discover it, until after between two and three hours search, when she found the deceased. He was in the creek with his head under water and his feet out: he was quite dead. It was about 12 oclock when she missed the child. Witness thinks that the child saw her in the distance and follower her to the bridge when it must have fallen into the water. Signed (quite neatly) by Mary Jane Wakeham

WILLIAM PROUSE being examined sworn stated that he is a settler residing at the Winui-o-mata(sic) and that he is the father of the deceased child George Prouse; the child was aged one year and eleven months. Witness saw the child alive last about 8 o'clock am on March 5 and he was away all day and did not return until the evening when he found that the child was drowned, and had been brought home: He knew nothing of the manner in which it occurred. Signed William Prouse

Benjamin Buck, Coronor for the Queen --- on the oaths of:	
James Lansdale	Hugh Sinclair
Robert Neil	William Judd jnr
Michael Troy	David Dick
Charles Smith	George Wood
William Wakeham	Richard Prouse jnr
John Wood	George Partridge

--- say that GEORGE PROUSE came to his death accidentally by drowning.

Isn't that sad? If you note the child's age as 23 months, he would have been born about ¹⁸⁵⁶ May 1856, which would have made him Harriet and William's ~~third~~ ^{second} born, coming between Charles (born 27-8-1854) and Harriet (born 30-10-1857). The next child born after George's death was a boy, on 15 October 1858 whom Harriet and William also named George. George seems to have been an ill-fated name for that family, as the second one also died young, on 3 September 1875, barely 16 years old. He is buried at the WOM Cemetery along with his father who drowned in the Otaki River on 30 May 1878.

That makes 12 children (known) to Harriet and William Prouse. Does that clarify anything for you?