

William PROUSE (1825-1878)

Evening Post 03 Jun 1878

Last night's Post says:- It is believed that the man who was drowned at the mouth of the Otaki river on Thursday night was Mr Prouse, a Patea settler, and brother to Mr Prouse, of Wainui-o-mata. The ferryman heard a coo-ey, but there was some little delay in getting out the boat, and when nearly across it struck against a horse's head. The rider was nowhere to be seen. Mr Prouse left Foxton on horseback on Thursday afternoon, and he has not since been heard of. [A telegram received in town today states that the body has been recovered, and identified as that of Mr Prouse.]

Evening Post 04 Jun 1878 The Death of Mr Rouse [sic]

The news of the sad death by drowning of Mr William Rouse [sic], an old and respected settler at Wainui-o-mata, will be received with general regret. Mr Rouse had just sold his Wainui-o-mata property for £6000, and was proceeding to Patea to look at a farm there which he purposed buying with the object of settling down there for the remainder of his days. A correspondent at Otaki sends us the following account of the melancholy occurrence:- "On Thursday evening about half-past 7 the deceased arrived on the bank of the Otaki river, and cooed, he was answered at once by the men at the Ferry-house, who immediately launched the boat, and while in the act of crossing the river were startled by the snorting of a horse which was swimming across, they turned in search of the man, but could not see him anywhere, they shouted but received no answer. The next morning the river was dragged in all directions, but without success, the day following search was again made and again without success. This (Sunday) morning a son and nephew of the deceased came up and commenced a search. They had not been searching more than half an hour when they saw the body lying in about 6ft of water, but while getting a rope ready for the purpose of hauling it out, they lost sight of the corps, and it was not seen again for nearly four hours. A native called Maka was the first to see it the second time, and with assistance, succeeded in getting it ashore. It was conveyed to Mr W. Ully's ferry-house, where a coroner's inquest was held. The following verdict was returned:- "That the deceased William Prouse, on the evening of the 30th May, whilst waiting on horseback on the north bank of Otaki for a boat, by some means got into the river and was drowned."

Funeral Notice

The Friends of the late William Prouse are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, which will leave his son's residence, Wainui-o-mata, Tomorrow (Wednesday), at 2 o'clock. John Hall, Undertaker.

Manawatu Times 05 Jun 1878

Dr Hewson, Coroner for the Otaki District, held an inquest on the 2nd instant on the body of William Prouse, who was drowned on the 30th ult., in attempting to ford the Otaki River. According to the evidence adduced deceased, who was a farmer at the Hutt River, was on his return journey from Patea. The prevailing opinion is that in its eagerness to drink, the horse precipitated itself and its rider into the stream, and that the animal kicked the unfortunate man in the head, rendering him powerless to save himself.

Taranaki Herald 10 Jun 1878

The 'Patea Mail' says that on the 31st May, Mr Prouse, of Wainuiomata, Wellington, whose sons occupy land abutting on the Patea River, Whenuakura Block, was drowned while attempting to cross the mouth of the Otaki River. The deceased gentleman had been on a visit, and was returning on horse-back, by the coast road to Wellington.

Auckland Star 02 Dec 1895 Marriage

On November 30, 1895, at Holy Trinity Church, Devonport, by the Rev Canon Bates, Harry Gregg, third surviving son of W. Nassau Grinlinton, of Napier, to Matilda, first daughter of the late William Prouse, of Patea. Napier and Palmerston North papers please copy.