

## James PROUSE (1853-1919)

*Hawera & Normanby Star 02 Nov 1899 News and Notes*

According to the Otaki Mail, the late Major-General Sir W. P. Symons, who died last week from the effect of wounds received at the battle of Glencoe, was an uncle to Mrs James Prouse, of Levin. This lady is also a cousin to Lieutenant-Colonel Yule, who is now in command at Glencoe.

*Manawatu Standard 22 Apr 1911 Personal*

Cr. James Prouse has decided, owing to pressure of business, not to stand again as a candidate on the Levin Borough Council. At last meeting of that body, the Mayor moved, and it was unanimously carried, "That this Council places on record the good and faithful services rendered by Cr James Prouse during the past five years, and much regrets his retirement from the Council."

*Dominion 13 Sep 1912 Social and Personal – Wedding at Levin*

On Wednesday afternoon last at the residence of the bride's parents, "Ashleigh House," the marriage took place of Miss Emma Prouse, the only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Prouse, of Levin, to Mr Thomas G. Vincent. The ceremony was performed by the Rev Jones in a large marquee on the lawn which had been profusely decorated with spring flowers and ferns. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a white chiffon taffetas silk dress, with tunic embroidered with true lovers' knots, the bodice being richly trimmed with silk guipure. She also wore a veil and orange blossoms, the veil having been prettily embroidered by Miss Sedcole, the bride's aunt. She carried a shower bouquet of lycopodium and clematis. There were two attendant bridesmaids, Miss Malcolm, cousin of the bride, and Miss Hilda Vincent (Invercargill) sister of the bridegroom. They wore white China silk dresses prettily trimmed with lace and ninon, and embroidered tulle embroidered veils and carried beautiful shower bouquets of daffodils and lycopodium. Mr Ralph Herd was the best man and Mr Herbert Prouse was groomsman. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a handsome bracelet, and to the bridesmaids gold chains and pendants. Mrs Prouse, mother of the bride, who received her guests at the entrance to the marquee, was in brown Sicilian cloth, with brown chenille toque, trimmed with red berries, and she also wore a white feather boa. A very large number of relatives from all parts of New Zealand were present, besides many friends and old employees of the firm of Prouse Bros. The health of the bride and bridegroom was proposed by the Rev Jones, that of the bridesmaids by the bridegroom, and that of the bride's parents by Mr Peter Stewart. The presents, which were very numerous, included one from the Y.M.C.A., the Methodist Sunday School, and other religious bodies to which the bride and bridegroom belong. Mr and Mrs Vincent left by the evening train for Palmerston en route for Napier. The bride travelled in a dark blue cloth gown with grey coat and grey velvet hat with white feathers. As both are very popular in the district there were many of their friends at the station to see them off.

*Evening Post 11 Feb 1919 Local and General*

Mr James Prouse, one of the most prominent residents of Levin, died suddenly at his home on Sunday. The deceased was born at the Lower Hutt 65 years ago, and was a son of the late Mr Richard Prouse, who arrived at Wellington by the 'Duke of Roxburgh' in February, 1840, and who established a sawmill at Wainui-o-mata. Mr James Prouse was educated at the Hutt. As a young man, he removed to Levin, and remained there until his death. For some years he carried on a sawmilling business at Weraroa, in partnership with his brothers (Messrs John and Richard Prouse) and Mr John Wright, and subsequently he went in for farming. He took a prominent part in local affairs, and was a leading member of the local Methodist Church. Mr Prouse, who was held in great respect, has left a widow, four sons, and a daughter. The funeral will take place to-morrow.

*Horowhenua Chronicle 11 Feb 1919 Death*

On February 9, 1919, at his residence, Queen street, Levin, James Prouse, aged 65.

*Horowhenua Chronicle 11 Mar 1919 The Late James Prouse – Tributes by County Council*

Before proceeding with the ordinary business of the Horowhenua County Council on Saturday, the Chairman (Cr G. A. Monk) said it was his duty to make reference to the death of a well-known citizen of the district, and a former member of the County Council in the person of Mr James Prouse. Mr Prouse had been chairman from one or two terms and the speaker said he had been greatly struck by the able manner in which Mr Prouse had entered into the affairs of the Council and when he spoke his remarks were always on sound lines. Mr Prouse was colonial born, and had practically spent his life here, being one of those who made Levin. The name of Prouse Brothers was closely connected with the growth of the sawmilling industry on this coast and since then they had become good and energetic farmers and Mr Prouse's death had come as a great blow to the Levin district. He had also been an important figure in the dairying industry, and the butter people had a lot to thank him for. He had been a great worker for the improving of the industry, for when he put his hand to the plough he never went back until his object was achieved. The Chairman then moved: "That this Council desires to place on record its appreciation of the services of the late Mr James Prouse, for many years a member of this Council, and at one time its chairman; the Council also desires to convey to Mrs Prouse and the members of the family its sincere sympathy with them in their bereavement." Cr Law endorsed what the Chairman had said. He could also back up the remarks made about Mr Prouse's connection with the dairying industry. The deceased gentleman was one of the very best fighters for putting the industry in the satisfactory position it was in to-day. One of the last things he worked for was reducing the period of storage charges on butter awaiting shipment. Cr Harkness said as a representative of the dairying industry, he could support everything that had been said. Mr Prouse's memory would be honoured and revered by all classes of the community throughout this district. Cr Broadbelt said he had known Mr Prouse for a long time and had found him upright and generous in all his dealings and the district had lost the services of a very able man. Cr McLeavey, an old associate of Mr Prouse at the Council table, spoke of the good service he had given the County and tendered his sympathy with the bereaved relatives. The motion was carried by the members rising silently.

*Evening Post 04 Jun 1936 New Church at Levin*

There was a large crowd, including many visitors, present for the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Methodist Church at Levin. The Rev J. Dennis was in charge of proceedings, being assisted by the Rev W. G. Slade, of Wellington East, until recently stationed at Levin; Rev J. R. Nelson, Otaki; Rev J. H. Haslam, Brooklyn; Rev C. W. Brown, Foxton; and the Rev R. Raine, Wellington. The foundation-stone was laid by Mrs James Prouse and Mrs Richard Prouse, whose late husbands were responsible for the establishment of the Methodist Church in this centre. A great number of congratulatory messages were received.