Charles PROUSE (1806-1881)

Family Search – England Marriages Batch Number M05074-1
Thomas Prowse married Catherine Fearncombe 31 Oct 1802 Crediton, Devon

Baptism Register Broad Street Chapel, Crediton (RG4/522 Non-Conformist Register)
Charles Prouse son of Thomas and Catharine Prouse born 01 July 1806 Crediton, baptized 13 July 1806 by Rev James Wheaton of Lyme Regis

Baptism Register Coombe Street, Lyme Regis (RG4/462 Non-Conformist Register)
Charles, son of Thos & Catherine Prowse born July 1st 1806 baptized at Crediton July 13th 1806 by J. Wheaton.

Marriage Register St Paul Portland Square Bristol
Charles Prouse of this parish and Mary Ann Clark of this parish were married in this Church by Banns 18 Jan 1825. Witnesses: Thomas Deverell Clark and Thomas Prouse

Baptisms Saint John and St Mary, Cardiff, Wales – Ancestry Wales, Select Births and Baptisms

1826 May 07	Thomas Deverel Prouse	son of Charles and Mary Ann Prouse
1829 Jan 04	Emma Prouse	dau of Charles and Mary Ann Prouse
1830 Jan 17	Charles Prouse	son of Charles and Mary Ann Prouse

Burial Register St Michael the Archangel on the Mount Without Bristol
No.181 Thomas Deverell Prouse, St Michael's Hill, buried 30 May 1828 aged two years

London Gazette 19 Sep 1837 page 2453
Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Charles Prouse and Richard Pearce Smith, of the city of Bristol, Iron Founders, trading under the firm of Prouse and Smith, was dissolved, by mutual consent, on the 1st day of September instant. All debts due to or owing from the said copartnership concern will be received and paid by the said Charles Prouse, by whom the said business will in future be carried on: As witness our hands the 15th day of September 1837. Signed: Charles Prouse and Richard Pearce Smith.

Bristol Times and Mirror 01 May 1840 Bristol Police – Friday
John Simmons and John Davis were charged with being in the iron warehouse of Mr Prowse, Merchant-street, with intent to commit a felony. An intelligent boy, named John Davis, also said that yesterday evening, at seven o'clock, he saw all the windows of the warehouse safe; about half-past nine he again inspected them, and saw the prisoner Davis sitting at the sill of one of the windows which was open, the hinge having been broken off. He got through the window, when the prisoner and another boy rushed past him, he succeeded in stopping the prisoner but the other escaped. The prisoner, who has been at the office before, said nothing, and was committed for two months with hard labour, and Davis was discharged.

Bristol Mercury 02 May 1840 Bristol Police - Friday
Magistrate present: Mr Drake. John Simmons, a boy, was charged with having been found upon the premises of Mr Prowse, iron-founder, with intent to commit a felony. John Davis, a lad in complainant's emply, deposed that, about 11 o'lock last night, upon examining his master's premises, he discovered that a window which had been fastened at 7 o'clock was broken open; he then went into the premises, upon which two boys rushed by him; one of them, the prisoner, he secured, but the other effected his escape. Committed for two months to hard labour.

Letter to the New Zealand Company (1840/1355) 03 Aug 1840 – National Archives CO 208/7 page 574 - https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2170136548/view
Sir, I should feel obliged by your furnishing me with what information you possess respecting the New Zealand Colonies as proposed to be established by you having a very great desire to become an emigrant to that part of the world. An answer as early as convenient will greatly oblige. Signed Charles Prouse, Iron Foundry, Merchant Street, Bristol.

Letter to the New Zealand Company (1840/1418) 11 Aug 1840 – National Archives CO 208/7 page 671 - https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2170159406/view
Sir, I received your kind reply to my enquiry on the 5th instant but tho I have an anxious wish to Emigrate to New Zealand I should not deem it a Prudent step to take unless I could see that I could render the colony some essential service by so doing and do my self no injury by the removal, in making my Present enquiry I would beg to say that I am a Practical tradesman have served seven years apprenticeship to carpentering and house building, that since I have been out of my time I have invariably applied myself to Iron Works and Machinery of all descriptions and have now a growing and a very profitable business employing about 600 hands in a cast iron wrought iron and engineering manufactory and at present the sole Proprietor have brought my establishment to its present state through industry with a Capital at the Commencement of not more than £270. I now throw myself open to negotiation with any Gentleman or Company. I would therefore beg to make the enquiry of you whether you know any one Gentleman or Company who would be likely to fall in with my views if so should I be asking too much of you to forward me their address. Signed Charles Prouse, Iron Foundry, Merchant Street, Bristol. P.S. My age is 34, family three children and wife. Every satisfactory reference can be given.

Reply from the New Zealand Company 18 Aug 1840 – National Archives CO 208/181 page 229 - https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2216581701/view
Sir, Since it appears that you consider the prudence of emigrating to New Zealand to depend on your ability to render essential service to the Colony, I fear I cannot give you much encouragement. This Company cannot, by the terms of its constitution, enter into such an Engagement as you advert to, nor do I know of any Gentleman who is "likely to fall in with your views." I enclose a copy of the Company's terms of purchase of Lands, which may possibly meet them.

London Gazette 19 Feb 1841 page 456 and The Bristol Mercury 27 Feb 1841

Notice is hereby given, that, by an Indenture bearing date the 9th day of January, 1841, Charles Prouse, of the city of Bristol, Iron-Founder and Wrought-Iron Manufacturer, hath assigned all his Personal Estate and Effects whatsoever to Andrew Nicholas Langdon, of the said city of Bristol Carpenter and Builder, upon trust, for the benefit of all the Creditors of him the said Charles Prouse; and that the said Indenture was duly executed by the said Charles Prouse and Andrew Nicholas Langdon on the said 9th day of January; and the execution of the said Indenture by them was witnessed, and is attested, by Henry Wheeler King, of No. 17, Small-street, in the said city of Bristol, Solicitor; and Notice is hereby further given, that the said Indenture of Assignment is now lying at the Office of the said Henry Wheeler King, in Small-street, aforesaid, for execution by the Creditors of the said Charles Prouse - Dated this 17th day of February, 1841.

1841 Census Foundry Place, St Paul, Bristol, Somerset

Thomas PROUSE	55yrs	A…	not born in the county
Catharine PROUSE	55yrs		not born in the county
Charles ORTEN	25yrs	Smith	not born in the county

1841 Census Merchant St, Bristol, Somerset

Charles PROWSE	30yrs	Iron Founder	not born in the county
Mary PROWSE	35yrs		born in the county
Emma PROWSE	13yrs		not born in the county
Charles PROWSE	11yrs		not born in the county
Mary Ann PROWSE	4yrs		born in the county
Ellen LEAKE	35yrs	(sister of wife)	born in the county
Sarah Ann LEAKE	9 months		born in the county

Bristol Mercury 26 Mar 1842

To be let with immediate possession, a large yard, with extensive Warehouse, Counting-House, and Sheds, situate in the Quakers' Friars, Merchant-street, late in the occupation of Mr Prouse, Ironfounder: it is well calculated for that or any other Business requiring extensive Premises. For particulars apply to Messrs Lawrence & Son, Builders, Merchant-street.

1846 Slater's National Commercial Directory of Ireland… including the important English town of Bristol

Bristol Schools:- Counter slip – Charles Prouse, master; Hannah Owen, mistress

Bristol Mercury 10 Apr 1847 State Education
A Meeting of Protestant Dissenters was held at Hope Chapel, Clifton, Bristol, on Wednesday Evening, the 7th inst., to petition Parliament against the Government plan of Education… an amendment to this resolution, in favour of the Government plan, was moved by Mr Turner, Master of the British School in Redcross-street, Bristol, and seconded by Mr Prouse, Master of the British School, connected with Counterslip Chapel, Bristol… and was opposed by the whole assembly, with the exception of eight votes in its favour.

1849 Hunt & Co.'s Directory for Gloucester, Bristol and Welsh Towns
Bristol Public Schools: British and Foreign (200 boys and 150 girls), Counterslip, Temple street. *Master*, Charles Prouse. *Mistress*, Hannah Owens.

1851 Census Two Mile Hill, Bristol St George

Charles PROUSE	Head	44yrs	British School teacher	b Crediton, Devon
Mary Ann PROUSE	Wife	46yrs	Domestic duties	b Bristol, Somerset
Mary Ann PROUSE	Dau	14yrs	Scholar	b Bristol, Somerset

The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette 13 Feb 1858 British Schools
The annual public meeting in connection with the Cardiff British Schools, was held in the room below the Ebenezer Chapel, Ebenezer-street, on Tuesday evening last. The meeting had been convened by the secretary (the Rev R. T. Verrall), in accordance with the regulations of the trust deed. The Rev A. Tilley took the chair, and the secretary proceeded to read the report, which gave a very favourable account of the progress made in the schools during the last year, under the management of Mr Prouse, to whom with the efficient schoolmistress, great credit is due for the order, regularity, and discipline enforced. There were 130 boys and 80 girls receiving tuition. Mr Jones proposed, and it was carried, that the report should be adopted, printed, and circulated amongst the subscribers. The treasurer's account showed that the sum of £75 13s 9½d had been raised by subscriptions and other means, and there was a balance still remaining due of £50. The committee recommended further subscriptions and congregational collections, and Messrs Stowe and Slocombe were elected treasurer and secretary. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr Verrall for his arduous services, and the committee for the ensuing year appointed.

The Bristol Mercury 06 Nov 1858
British Schools:- The annual examination of these schools was held on Friday last, when they were reported to be in a very satisfactory state, through the exertions of the master, Mr Charles Prouse, late of Bristol.

The Cardiff Times 06 Nov 1858 Examination at the British School

On Friday evening week, there was an interesting examination of the boys and girls taught in the above school, by Mr and Miss Prouse. Several ministers were present, a number of ladies, and parents of the children. The Rev Mr Jones was in the chair. The children were examined in reading, spelling, Bible and English history, geography, &c., and manifested an aptitude which reflected credit on both teachers and taught. Mr. Prouse gave an account of his labours, from which we gathered that when he entered upon his duties eighteen months ago, the children were in a very low condition indeed, both as to discipline and knowledge. Now, however, he has brought them up to a respectable state in both respects, and therefore deserves the thanks of the parents and the public. Two of the parents present acknowledged their obligations to Mr. Prouse. Several addresses were delivered, and the proceedings were closed by the children singing one of their pieces. During the evening they sang several school pieces in a very creditable manner.

Slaters Commercial Directory Cardiff 1858-1859

Charles PROUSE, master at the British & Foreign School, Millicent St; Mary Ann PROUSE, mistress at the same institution.

The Cardiff Times 01 Jan 1859 Cardiff British Schools

We very gladly draw attention to the appeal which Mr Prouse, the conductor of the above school, has issued to the public, asking the friends of education to assist him in raising £20 to provide school furniture. It unfortunately happens that the committee have a heavy debt upon them, and cannot give Mr Prouse the assistance he needs. He has been labouring hard for twelve months on his own responsibility to work the school, and has succeeded in producing a marked effect. His school appliances require help, and we trust the public will Dot be backward in the good cause.

The Cardiff Times 05 Mar 1859 Cardiff British Schools

On Wednesday evening the annual meeting of these institutions was held at the Tabernacle, in the Hayes, when there was a goodly attendance of the parents of the children who are receiving instruction in these schools. The chair was taken by Mr W. Ward, editor of the *Cardiff Times*. A number of the scholars passed through a brief examination in reading, spelling, geography, scripture history, English history, geometry, and arithmetic, in all of which they acquitted themselves creditably. Singing was interspersed. At the close of the examination the Rev R. T. Verrall read the following report:-

"The Committee, in presenting their report for this year, do so with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret; pleasure in being able to state that the schools, under the mastership of Mr Prouse, are still in a prosperous state, so far as the number of scholars and their proficiency is concerned. The average number of attendance being, boys 122; girls 60. The committee would here likewise state that, at the last examination of the children, they were most agreeably surprised at the amount of knowledge which had been attained, and have therefore very great pleasure in recommending the schools to the inhabitants of Cardiff. They regret to have to present such an unfavourable financial report for the year. This regret, however, is somewhat lessened from the fact that the supporters of the voluntary principle of education are not actually to blame; but rather it may be viewed as a misfortune, arising from the spread of an erroneous impression that schools, under the management of Mr Prouse, are self-supporting, in such a sense as that no further fund was required from those who had hitherto contributed towards their funds. The committee hope that this idea will not be retained, as it will be readily seen, on consideration, that although the money is now paid by the committee to the master or mistress, who depend entirely on the payments of the children, yet there are many expenses continually occurring – such as ground rent, interest of monies on mortgage, fire insurance, repairs of building, water-rates, &c., &c., which can only be met my the continual liberal support of those who feel a deep interest in the prosperity of the schools.

The committee beg also to make a special appeal to the public for means to carry out the alterations and repairs contemplated, and which are really necessary in the sanitary part of the building. It will be seen that a considerable item in the financial report arises from a change of the mortgage, which was forced on the trustees by the original mortgage being called in; this, with the disbursement of some long outstanding debts, had so exhausted the available funds as to leave many of the proper debts of this year unpaid. The committee cannot help thinking, from the manner in which these schools have for some time past been supported, that their original design must be, either altogether forgotten, or unknow to the public generally, which reflects but little credit on the energy and liberality of the believers in voluntary education. It is but right that a fair trial should be given to the working out of a principle for which so many liberal hearts are contending, and for the firm establishment of which there is so much need; and remembering that this is the only British School in the town, that the instruction is wholly unsectarian, and a good sound English education on the foundation and principles of the Bible is given – the committee cannot close this report without confidently making an appeal to their friends not to allow these schools to fall into decay for want of the measure of assistance which they require, while schools conducted on principles so extremely foreign to those we profess are flourishing around us." The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and expressed the hope that when it was perused by the public there would be a fitting response to the appeal for larger support to this institution. He reminded the parents and the friends of the schools that Mr Prouse and his daughter were doing a good work, and were deserving of that countenance which the public could efficiently render to these British schools. The principle of the British School, was one that commended itself to the thoughtful attention of all well wishers of popular education, and therefore he hoped the report would produce the desired effect. A gentleman having seconded the motion, the report was adopted. A number of gentlemen were elected to serve on the committee, and after a vote of thanks to the chairman the proceedings were brought to a close.

The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette 05 Mar 1859 Cardiff British Schools
The annual meeting of the above Schools was held in the Tabernacle Chapel, Hayes, on Wednesday evening last. The scholars passed an examination in reading and spelling, geography, scripture history, English history, and arithmetic. They acquitted themselves most creditably, especially in mental arithmetic, and to test their acuteness in that stage, numerous questions of a promiscuous character were put to them by the Rev R. T. Verrall and other gentlemen, which they answered with great accuracy. Much praise is certainly due to the schoolmaster, Mr Prouse, for the great pains he evidently takes in the training of the children. Mr Verrall, on behalf of the secretary, read the annual report of the committee, which congratulates the supporters of the institution on the prosperous state of the school – so far as the number and proficiency of the scholars is concerned. The average attendance being, boys 122, girls 60. They regretted to present an unfavourable financial report. There were many expenses continually occurring, such as ground rent, interest on monies on mortgage, fire insurance, repairs of buildings, water rates &c., which could only be met by continued liberal support. The committee urgently appealed to their friends not to allow the school to fall into decay, remembering that it was the only British School in the town, that the instruction was wholly unsectarian, and that a good sound English education on the foundation and principles of the Bible was given. The Chairman moved the adoption of the report, which was carried. The committee and officers for the ensuing year having been appointed, the meeting separated.

The Cardiff Times 18 Jun 1859 The Cardiff British Schools
We have much pleasure in directing the attention of working men to these schools, where boys, girls, and infants are taught, at a reasonable rate, the leading features of knowledge. The schools will commence anew on the 27th of this month; and from what we know of the indefatigable labours of Mr Prouse, we have no hesitation in recommending this public institution to that large class of the community for whose benefit it is conducted.

The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette 24 Sep 1859 Cardiff Sunday School Union
In consequence of a matter, we were necessitated to omit from our last issue a report of the proceedings which took place in the Congregational Chapel, Charles-street, in reference to the progress the Sunday Schools, belonging to the Cardiff Union, had made since the last canvass. The chair was taken by the Rev R. T. Verrall. There was a paucity of ministers of the town present, but it so happened that several of the ministers who were *en route* for Aberdare, could not proceed any further than Cardiff that evening, and they attended the meeting, and delivered several pleasing addresses. Mr C. Prouse read a lengthy report, from which we make the following extracts:- "The Committee of the Sunday School Union, in taking office this year, pledged themselves to make a strenuous effort, by a canvass of the town, to bring as many children as they could within the pale of Sabbath school instruction…"

The Cardiff Times 03 Dec 1859 New Room Opened
The Independent church at Charles-street, have made arrangements with Mr Davies for a room, oblong in shape, very neat in appearance, and tasteful in finish, at Comet-street, Splotlands, for the purpose of holding a Sunday school, and Sunday and week day religious services in that growing neighbourhood. On Wednesday the room, which was decorated with evergreens, was opened. Tea was laid upon the table at six o'clock, to which about 150 visitors did ample justice. After tea Dr Edwards was voted to the chair, and made a few remarks on the state of the town, and called upon the Rev Mr Verrall, minister of the Charles-street Independent Chapel to address the meeting… Mr Prouse suggested that a day school should be held in the new room, and said he thought that a master might be found who would volunteer his services…

The Cardiff Times 03 Mar 1860 Cardiff British Schools

On Tuesday evening the annual meeting of this institution was held at the schoolroom, the Rev. A. Tilly in the chair. The report of the committee stated that the average attendance during the past twelve months has been on the whole satisfactorily maintained, though from various causes the actual number on the books has somewhat diminished. There are at present belonging the school 127 boys, 47 girls, and 30 infants, making a total of 204 names now registered, and showing a decrease, as compared with last year, of 59. It must, however, be remembered that during the past year a new school of a similar nature has been opened at the Docks; and several other circumstances have combined to produce this result. Considerable repairs are needed to the building, and the works absolutely necessary are estimated to cost about £35; and the committee trust that the subscribers will place this sum in their hands. The committee ask the public to support the schools liberally, as they are the only voluntary schools in Cardiff. The financial statement for the year showed that the disbursements were 4s less than the receipts but there are debts owing from a previous period amounting to £25 13s. 8d. The report was adopted, on the motion of the Rev. N. Glass, seconded by Mr. S. Jones, and the committee were then appointed; after which the examination was proceeded with. A number of tidy girls and boys were examined in scripture, reading, spelling, grammar, geography, English history, and mental arithmetic. The copy books were also exhibited. We were very much pleased with the examination, the pupils showing considerable proficiency in several branches. The committee was very well represented at the meeting, and there was a tolerably good sprinkling of parents and friends of the institution present. We hope Mr. Prouse and his daughter will be encouraged to prosecute their arduous labours with increased vigour.

1861 Census 34 Adam St, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales

Charles PROUSE	Head 54yrs	British Schoolmaster	b Crediton, Devon
John MARSHALL	Son-in-law 26yrs	Draper	b Scotland
Mary A. MARSHALL	Dau 24yrs		b Bristol, Somerset
Harriett DAVIS	Visitor 30yrs	Haymaker [unmarried]	b Kingswood, Gloucestershire

The Bristol Mercury 4 Apr 1863 Death

March 30, after a most painful illness, aged 61, Mary Ann, the beloved wife of Mr Charles Prouse, Librarian of the Free Library, Cardiff, and eldest daughter of the late Mr T. D. Clark, of this city.

1871 Census 12 North Luton Place, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales

Emma OSMAN	Head 66yrs	Income from houses [widow]	b Clifton
Charles PROUSE	Boarder 65yrs	Public School Master [widower]	b Crediton, Devon

1881 Census 25 North Luton Place, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales

Jabez HEDGE	Head	33yrs	Coal Tipper	b Glamorgan
Martha HEDGE	Wife	35yrs		b Pembrokeshire
Emma PROUSE	Head	76yrs	Independent [Widow]	b Clifton
Harriet DAVIS	Servt	50yrs	Domestic servant [unmarried]	b Bristol
Jessie MARSHALL	Gd-dau	16yrs		b Cardiff

National Probate Calendar

The will of Charles Prouse late of 25 North-Luton-place Cardiff in the County of Glamorgan Schoolmaster who died 23 February 1881 at 25 North-Luton-place was proved at Llandaff by Harriet Davis of 25 North-Luton-place Spinster the sole Executrix. Personal Estate under £200.