

John William Prouten

Isle of Wight County Press - 2 February 1935

Death of Newport's Oldest Tradesman

The death occurred yesterday (Friday) of Mr. John William Prouten, aged 97, grocer, of 82 Pyle-street, Newport, where he had carried on business for over 50 years. He was active, bright, and cheerful to the last, having only taken to his bed on Tuesday. He retained all his faculties in a marvellous degree and was able to enjoy his pipe and relate many experiences in his long life almost until the end. He was a native of Godshill. He was a prominent member of the Liberal party and regularly attended their meetings. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, Quay-street, and the oldest member of the I. W. Grocers' and Provision Merchants' Council. His interest in the affairs of the town was unabated and last summer he expressed a wish to see the new premises of the Southern Vectis Bus Co., and this wish was gratified by the kindness of a neighbour, who wheeled the veteran in a chair to the depot and to see the new building development adjoining the Victoria Recreation-ground. He was married three times and lost his first wife and two children under tragic circumstances. They were the victims of a cholera epidemic. Recalling this sad experience, Mr. Prouten used to relate that he was rendered practically homeless, as it was found necessary to destroy not only the bedding, but also the furniture of the house. If the secret of longevity is a happy, contented disposition Mr. Prouten had discovered it, for it was said of him that he was never known to complain. At one time he was a familiar figure in the town daily and always had a friendly greeting for those whom he met. He leaves a widow. A brother, who is over 80 and lives at Cowes, survives him. The funeral will take place at Quay-street Methodist Church on Tuesday, at 2.30.

Isle of Wight County Press - 9 February 1935

NEWPORT

THE LATE MR. J. W. PROUTEN.- The funeral of Mr. John William Prouten, of 82 Pyle-street, whose death at the age of 97 was reported last week, took place on Tuesday at the Quay-street Methodist Church. The Rev. J. Higman (minister) officiated. The mourners were Mrs. Prouten (widow), Messrs A. G. and C. F Prouten, of Cowes (nephews), and Mrs. Morgan. Mr. F. Prouten of Cowes, deceased's brother, was unable to be present owing to indisposition. The interment was at the Newport Cemetery, there being many beautiful floral tributes. The arrangements were made by Mr. W. Flux. – The widow wishes to thank all friends and neighbours for kind sympathy and help, also for the beautiful flowers, and Dr. Welsh for kind attention. Please accept this, the only intimation.

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