



Re: Your current descion to close my account --- as LEADERS OF THIS COMMUNITY????

From Jason Sprouse <jason_sprouse@hotmail.com>

Date Thu 6/26/2025 10:57 AM

To Randall Prouse <rlprouse@icloud.com>; Scott McClain <js3mcclain@gmail.com>; Feargal Ó hÉidhneacháin <feargal.hennigan@gmail.com>; michaelcayley@gmail.com <michaelcayley@gmail.com>; WikiTree <info@wikitree.com>; WikiMediators@GoogleGroups.com <wikimediators@googlegroups.com>

[Is Wiki-Tree really a research platform? : r/Room_2562](#)

If y'all feel y'all's investigation and mediation addressed any real concern --- I've shared some feedback on my experience, and some thoughts about the professionalism displayed in y'all's process.

Randall and Michael Cayley ---- more than likely have conflicts of interest as it relates to what I was flagged for....Randall is the profile manager of Mr. Cayley's oldest ancestor. When I said it was a 50/50 chance that the Preaux ancestry was I or R, but then said it's probably more like 80/20 due to their known French Norman history --- that's not wishful thinking, that's statistical analysis.

Again - I just want to reiterate this was a very weird experience where I expected a real investigation about the substance of the communication, not the communication itself, which again - was very mild considering the circumstance. I'm not going to nit-pick on all the communication from the mediators, but I do question the intent of some of it. I have a reasonable suspicion there is some ulterior motive for erroneously accusing me of something that just isn't reflected in the accusation.

For example:

I think this was to process me through your elevated mediation process. Right.



Feargal Ó hÉidhneacháin <feargal.hennigan@gmail.com>

To: You

← ↶ → | 📧 | ...

Sat 5/10/2025 6:20 PM

Jason, a chara,

I see that you have made additional comments on [Prouse-98](#) that could reasonably be perceived as a breach of [WikiTree's discussion rules](#).

I would also ask that you please keep in mind points III and IV of the [WT Honour Code](#): "We assume that mistakes are unintentional" and "be courteous to everyone".

Please let me know if the discussion rules and Honour Code are clear... or if you have any questions.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Feargal.

...

[George Prouse \(1733-aft.1772\) | WikiTree FREE Family Tree](#) --- Look at what was comminated here that he said could be reasonably be perceived as a breach of Wiki-Tree's discussion rules. I'm bringing all the research I did to the conversation to assess the validity of what Randall is claiming.

**Ran Prouse**

The Prouse families of Talbot, Dorchester and Caroline counties is challenging with the different spellings of Prouse and given names, especially George, Thomas, John and others does create confusion. We don't need to cause more confusion by using spelling as a proof of a relationship. A good example is the Administration Bond for George Prouse the husband of Rachel Harvey. This is an original document with the names spelled Sprouse. There is a difference of opinion on which George Prouse married Rachel Harvey. One source uses Philips, Sprouse spelling to justify George Sprouse, Philip's son b. 1718 as Rachel's husband.

The George Prouse who married Rachel Harvey is the son of George Prouse and Jane Harding who was born about 1735. George the father of George is a brother to Philip. Philip's son, George b 1718, is a 1st cousin once removed to George Prouse Jr. who married Rachel Harvey.

The Administrative Bond of Caroline Co dated 1772. The main reason for the confusion of Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot county Prouse documents is the fact that Caroline County was created in 1773!!! <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQL-G3GT-P?view=fullText&keywords=Sprouse%2CDORCHESTER&groupid=TH-909-58252-100209-28&lang=en>.

posted 2 months ago by **Ran Prouse**

↩ **[Living Sprouse]**

Please also explain all the other records for the different George's.....the main confusion of Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot is not the fact that Caroline County was created in 1773.....the main confusion is all the other records of George of Talbot and George of Dorchester --- I'm not confused about a history of records for people that exist in a county. All of those records for each one of these people statistically represent they are different people. George who was born in 1733 --- likely IS NOT, the George who died in Dorchester in 1772.

This is all the Sources I've found for George in Talbot.....he's recorded with the Prouse surname.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/sources/K143-MHV> <--- 11 total unique sources, from 1733-1789 --- all state Talbot, all recorded as Prouse

This is all the Sources I've found for George in Dorchester.....all recorded with the Sprouse surname.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/sources/K82J-4ZJ> <--- 7 total unique sources, from 1744-1777 --- all state Dorchester, all recorded as Sprouse - INCLUDING the Administrative Bond you're citing above

What in that response could be reasonably perceived as a violation? If I recall this is the only place Randall cited any document, in all the back and forth communication.

Our Honor Code

- I. **We collaborate.** When we share ancestors we work together on the [same ancestor profiles](#).
- II. We care about **accuracy**. We're always aiming to improve upon our worldwide family tree and fix mistakes.
- III. We know mistakes are inevitable. We don't want to be afraid to make them. We **assume that mistakes are unintentional** when others make them and ask for the same understanding.
- IV. We know misunderstandings are inevitable. We try to minimize them by being **courteous to everyone**, even those who don't act accordingly.
- V. We respect **privacy**. We [privacy-protect](#) anything we think our family members might not want public. If that's not enough for someone, we delete their personal information.
- VI. We respect **copyrights**. We don't knowingly copy information that's owned by someone else. If we ourselves want to preserve a copyright, we're clear about what's copyrighted so others don't accidentally copy it.
- VII. We give **credit**. Although most genealogy isn't copyrighted, researchers deserve [credit](#) for the work they've done.
- VIII. We cite **sources**. Without [sources](#) we can't objectively resolve conflicting information.
- IX. We are united in a [mission](#) to increase the world's common store of knowledge. We always respect copyrights and privacy, but we **keep information as free and open as possible**.

I'm clearly not angry. I'm not even angry that he posted all the lies that is contradicted by discussions we had privately. I'm not even angry about this process, but I do have opinions on the experience.

When I requested that Wiki-tree admins to close all of the mediator's accounts --- I seriously believe this is an acceptable request. Anyhow. Best of luck on your own research.....if y'all are altering profiles based on my research ---- y'all should be ashamed of yourselves.

Beat regards,

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From: Jason Sprouse <jason_sprouse@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 2:11 AM

To: WikiMediators@GoogleGroups.com <WikiMediators@GoogleGroups.com>; WikiTree <info@wikitree.com>; Scott McClain <js3mccain@gmail.com>; michaelcayley@gmail.com <michaelcayley@gmail.com>; Feargal Ó hÉidhneacháin <feargal.hennigan@gmail.com>; Randall Prouse <rlprouse@icloud.com>

Subject: Your current desicion to close my account --- as LEADERS OF THIS COMMUNITY????

Hi ---

[Help:Mediators Council Menu](#) ---

First off --- I want to say, I think the choice to close my account is very immature, mainly due to the fact I would find it very surprising if any wikitree community members found the tone of my response as - "crossing the line" of decency - for someone telling lies and posting false and misleading statements, considering both the private and public disrespect I was responding to. When I say any of your wikitree members, whoever voted on this account closure is included as part of the community expressed therein. I am surprised. I am calling into question y'all's professionalism, just as you have mine based on this resolution.

Randall is the only researcher that blatantly disrespected me and started with those kind of derogatory statements. This is not a problem I'd have with other professional researchers, or really even a problem I give much care or concern to. A person from the Facebook page Ran asked me to join, [House of Prowse | Facebook](#), was the 1st person that flagged the communication. I won't rehash everything y'all may have reviewed that led to the discrepancies of facts --- what I will do is layout what could be a legal issue. I guess perspective matters, as it has been communicated to me.

Member Acceptance of the Decision

The decision of the Mediators Council is the final [stage](#) of conflict escalation. It is the volunteer community's last attempt to resolve a problem.

The WikiTree Team will close an account if it is the decision of the council. The team will not overrule the decisions of volunteer Mentors and Mediators at any stage of the escalation process unless there is a [Terms of Service](#) violation or [legal issue](#). In these cases, it is outside the scope of what can be handled by volunteers and account closure is required.

I didn't instigate the disrespect and — although, there is room for opinion as it relates to what constitutes not being courteous, I don't feel my communication was too discourteous for public discourse, considering the blatant disrespect and false and misleading things he was posting that was polar opposite of what was explained to him in private. I was explaining errors in his claims — he was explaining with falsely transcribed sources Sprouse's were vagrants pulled from the streets --- which, of course, he was also wrong about.

Here are 4 examples of communication where I was told it could be perceived as a violation of the Honor Code

1. If you can logically explain your 1st sentence for the readers and me, every person with intelligence would love to better understand how you reach that kind of logic.
2. There is ALOT wrong with pretty much every assumption you just used to state everything you just commented. It's not academic, professional or even showing signs of logic of an intelligent rational person.
3. Caution --- in private e-mails Ran got real predatory in his communication claiming things that --- upon him saying the things he said --- I said, OK, if that's what my lineage is - so be it, but I'll do my own research. This just to say - I was willing to accept whatever the data said was correct. Him saying that I'm "fixated" on something is him knowing his research is not nearly as credible as the research performed by a person with more integrity than himself.
4. My dispute is - don't let your research be so weak that artificial intelligence tells you that your research is likely wrong, because you are committed to your weakly performed research.

For #4 --- this is to all the so called "professional" genealogist, not just the dispute with the person related to this issue. In my opinion, 1) and 2) are open-ended statements that whoever reads it can perceive it any way they want. If the shoe fits, wear it, so to speak. 3) Was a comment that covered both private and public exchanges, none of which I was escalating conflict.

Here's the problem with perspective though, and the legal issue.

1. The 1st person assigned to mediate was named Feargal
2. The last mediator's name was McClain

Based on the other things I communicated to Mr. Scott McClain about perspective, which was really meant to convey that perspective doesn't always equate to intent.

A preamble about communication - **this isn't an accusation**, it's an explanation and example about perspective :

It's easy to put forth thinly veiled threats that may seem harmless, but are just part of a more complex psychological attack. Your e-mail name for example - js3McClain --- I have a friend from high school named Brandon McClain that got shot and killed under some weird circumstances.

js - the initials of my first and last name - 3 --- the images below to the right - metaphysical features that has the appearance of the twin towers --- it's not a stretch of the imagination to comprehend how a thinly veiled threat could be interpreted just in that.

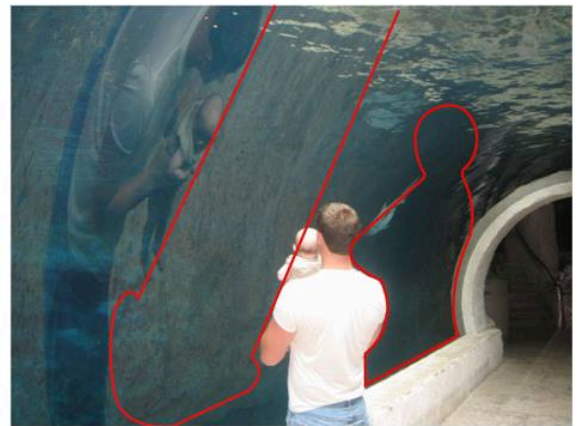
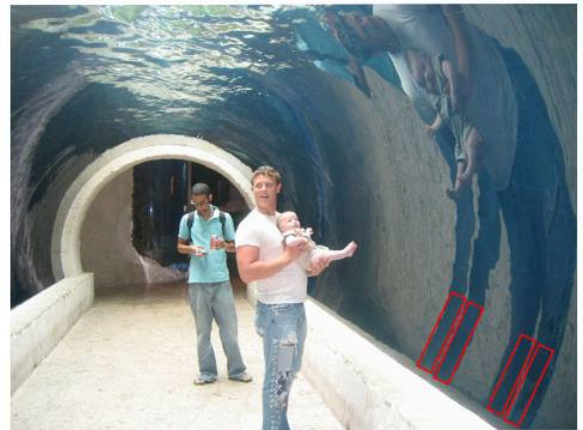
What I'm getting at is - there is more elements of physical and digital interaction that could be deemed inappropriate than communication about the assessment or opinion of a person's ability to assess facts that can be ascertained from sources.

Do I too much care about your e-mail name and the reasoning behind the ability to make that kind of interpretation - not really - does it register, yes. If I allowed those kinds of nuances to dictate my reality --- everything would go to hell. No computer would turn off and get turned back on, thus restart. It's only weak people and a weak system with access to a vast collection of data that would find it fun to intentionally pop innuendos into your range of perspective like that.

Brandon McClain's ex-girlfriend shot and killed him. The 1st mediator's name is Fear-gal. It's simple to understand how I could perceive the procession of the names of mediators as death threats or terroristic threats during this wikitree moderation experience. Just because that perspective from my world view can be drawn, doesn't mean that was the intent. Was it?

Is that rational? Probably not, but I don't think the perspective that my comments were so discourteous that my account be closed in a mediation process where the root problem was NEVER addressed is a rational decision either.

Never Forget



[Help:Developing New Rules](#) <—

As a rule --- if there isn't a well formulated argument that a member escalated the conflict, because that is what this is about --- meaning they should prove what y'all are claiming is said on the forums matches the behavior for the resolution of an account closure , meaning you have timestamps on your database and you can see what was posted and what the response was every time a database update happens, if a volunteer community can't ascertain he is problematic and instigating issues, they shouldn't have the power to ban a member or close an account.

If you look at all the interactions between me and Randall - I responded differently to the things Randall was trying to accomplish in his communication. The sources and facts speak for themselves. I'm not in a struggle with the facts, and I'm sure Artificial Intelligence will get good enough at genealogy research that my proposals will be the more statistically stronger hypothesis.

In closing,

Admin - please override the decision to close an account where the Mediators never even addressed the root problem. Surly you see how flimsy an opinion about the perspective of a situation is. If not, please close all the accounts of the parties involved in the mediation process immediately. I honestly do fell death threats vibes from this process, but don't worry, although I'm sad to report - since these images have occurred --- there have been worse scenarios I've navigated than this ridiculousness.

Best Regards,

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