



Re: Post-mediation mentoring

From Jason Spouse <jason_spouse@hotmail.com>

Date Sat 6/21/2025 1:37 PM

To WikiTree <info@wikitree.com>; Scott McClain <js3mcclain@gmail.com>; Randall Prouse <rlprouse@icloud.com>

Hi ---

My account is still blocked.

This is a lot of writing, but I like to be as clear and transparent with my communication as possible. I'm really looking forward to seeing what Artificial Intelligence will be able to do with the vast collection of sources and human created profiles, and I'm seeking to "try" to be as accurate as I can to confirm/eliminate hypothesis as well as what I would want/expect Artificial Intelligence to do. What kind of corrections or suggestion will Ai provide, you know? What further research focus might it suggest?

Ai even says that sureties on probate proceedings were often relatives or very close confidants of the deceased — I would expect that when Ai gets good at genealogy research that it would be able to identify what the relationship is exactly to the person on each probate proceeding. It would then research those people in the vast collection of the sources it has and generate a probability score on the ancestral history of that relationship --- and at minimum provide research guidance with a trail of source links that will assist the researcher, if not perform the profile update itself.

- **The Bond:** This bond was a financial guarantee that the executor or administrator would properly handle the estate's assets, pay debts, and distribute the remaining assets according to the will or the laws of intestacy.
- **Surety's Role:** The sureties, by signing the bond, essentially pledged their own assets as collateral. If the executor or administrator mishandled the estate (e.g., embezzled funds, failed to pay legitimate debts, or improperly distributed assets), the beneficiaries or creditors could make a claim against the probate bond. If the executor/administrator could not cover the claim, the sureties would be financially responsible for making good on the losses.

Relationship to the Deceased/Executor: Sureties were often relatives or close associates of the deceased or the appointed executor/administrator. Their willingness to act as surety indicated trust and a commitment to ensuring the estate was managed properly, as their own financial well-being was tied to the performance of the individual managing the estate.

Witnessing Probate Proceedings (and Appending their Seal):

- **Purpose:** When individuals witnessed a will or other probate document, their primary role was to attest to the authenticity of the document and the mental competence of the person making it (the testator). They were essentially affirming that they saw the testator sign the document and that the testator appeared to be of sound mind and not under duress.
- **Appended Seal:** In many instances, witnesses would append their seal (often a wax seal with their unique mark or family crest) to the document. This acted as an additional layer of verification and solemnity. It was a formal declaration of their presence and their affirmation of the document's validity. In an era before widespread literacy or easily verifiable signatures, seals held significant legal weight and were a crucial part of authentication.
- **Credibility:** The witnesses had to be "credible," meaning they could not be beneficiaries of the will, as that would create a conflict of interest and potentially invalidate their testimony or the bequest to them. Their testimony in court, if

I would rather evaluate sources and get the profiles correct before artificial intelligence corrects me. For example: I wouldn't want to claim George Spouse of Tennessee is the son of George Spouse in Dorchester --- and then have AI tell me I am wrong. If I can thoroughly research it enough to statically reduce or eliminate that possibility myself - and be fairly confident in my assessment --- and AI agrees with me --- I would rather have that outcome. My expectation is to engage with other researchers after that same truth, with that level of unbiased integrity. Sometimes expectations DO NOT translate to reality. People can be irrational, emotional or ego driven.

Many of the sources for this family leave very little doubt about lineage. I really take no pleasure in telling someone who has claimed the things they have that my assessment indicates there are errors in their claims, but do you want errors in your family ancestral chart? I don't. Did I expect it to ruffle feathers? No.

I didn't start researching Maryland seriously until after I collected enough evidence that supported everything was right in Tennessee. That was October of 2024. At that time I was prepared to start researching the next ancestor in line --- I was going to research both Maryland and Virginia. Poking around in the FamilySearch documentation after that time I found some info that helped my research improve significantly and I found even more evidence for the Tennessee ancestors. I shared what improved my research with Randall, and a couple other researchers as I don't want to do ALL the work. I'm actively researching pre-existing profiles and just like your [Help:Disagreements about Certainty](#) says— collecting information for or against it. This is reasonable, logical, professional expectations.

I've clearly stated this without even knowing this disclaimer was there....in the short amount of time I've investigated different hypothesis of George Spouse from Tennessee's lineage.

Ongoing research or testing

As explained on [Help:Uncertain, speculative parent-child connections](#) may be used as a working hypothesis for research or testing. A member may be investigating a certain scenario and be collecting information for or against it. They may be using WikiTree's rapidly-evolving [DNA Features](#).

You should give a fellow member as much latitude as possible for this sort of investigation or experimentation.

Experiments should be described in the text of a profile while ongoing. They should be temporary if the connections are highly speculative. If necessary, the community will develop standards for how long they should last.

When the investigation or experimentation is complete the results should be explained in the text of the appropriate profiles, for everyone's benefit.

Just like I told him here --- I'll diagram it — geo-locate, ect.....for everyone's benefit.



[Jason Spouse](#)

We'll get it all sorted out.....I'm doing both sides of the descendants of George Prouse m. Mary Alford. The surname Sprou used a lot though-out the primary sources on both sides. I'll diagram it, geo-locate it the best I can, and come back with so the record trail suggest.....and then we can discuss the differences.

George Prouse 1675-1708 m. Mary Chezum only had one son named George. That George 1700-1750 m. twice 1st) Mary he has several children.....including a son named George and a son named Phillip - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/sources/K143-MHV> <---- See the sources added. The surname Spouse/Prouse/Prouse is used amongst several of their descendants, and so This Philip's daughter Rebecca is recorded using the surname Spouse too. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S-view=fullText&lang=en&groupId=TH-1942-24315-8027-41>

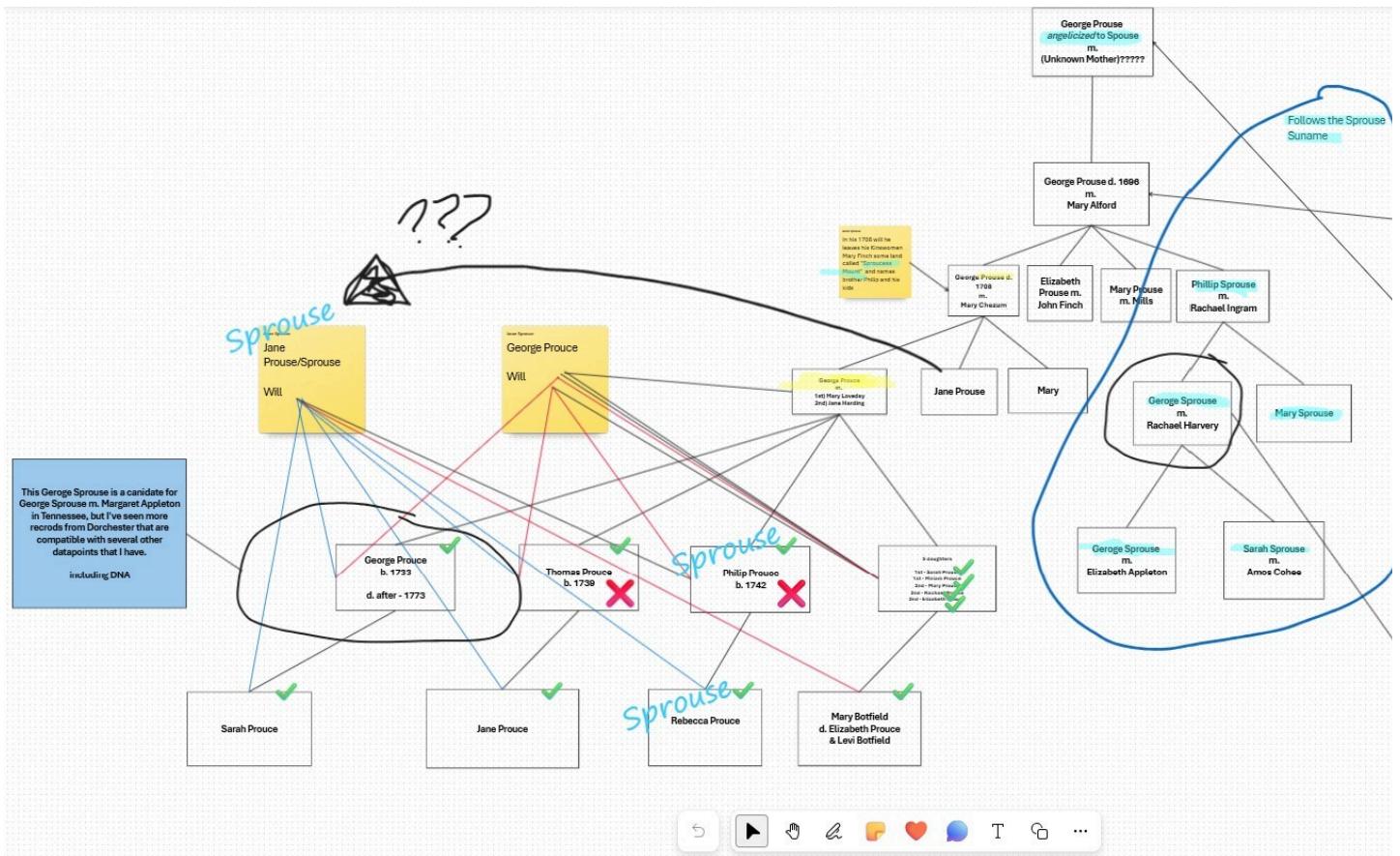
There are 2 different generations of Philip who is brother of George, maybe more. I'll organize it based on sources with lots what I present. Here's what I think is the issue with what you're stating right here.....Philip Prouse/Spouse s. of George Prouse m. to Rachael Ingram names a daughter Mary Spouse. I would find it odd that he would name a known son George b. around the surname Prouse. We have a Dorchester source that states George and Rachael Spouse.

[posted](#) 3 months ago by [Jason Spouse](#)

I delivered on both the diagram and attached sources to the appropriate profiles. All the locations where there is the baby blue color there is a primary source with the surname Spouse. From the very 1st ancestor the name has had an anglicization to Spouse. I suspect there is a reason for this. An honorable one. Randal thinks it's all phonetic or unstandardized spelling, I think it was done intentionally to disambiguate the debit/credit accounts of relatives that lived in close proximity.

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> <--- 12 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 Spouse surname. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/sources/K82J-4ZI> <--- 8 total unique sources, from 1744-1777 --- all state Dorchester, all recorded as Spouse



Randall has double-standard's in his comments, but there is more datapoints in the evidence that strengthens my family relationships from Exeter, Devon to Maryland/Virginia, to Tennessee and so on and so forth. It's the total field of evidence --- everything that is proven with primary sources — that I take into account in evaluating the legitimacy of my ancestral chart.

[George Sprouse \(1762-abt.1845\)](#) | WikiTree FREE Family Tree

Randall added this research note to this profile after I added George to the profile of --- what he claims, is George Prouse m. Rachael Harvey (I'd say Ferrall) of Talbot. He's used sources from George and Rachael in Dorchester to support his claims --- the evidence suggests using a Dorchester record to support his Talbot claim is a clear conflation of 2 distinct people. George in Talbot is who is named in the will of Jane Prouse/Sprouse and Sarah is named as his daughter, Jane's granddaughter. So far, that is the only information I have for any of the ancestors for George Prouse m. Rachael Ferrall.

In fully researching and scrutinizing George Prouse/Sprouse m. Rachael Sisk of Dorchester — I doubt George in Tennessee is that George's son, it doesn't even seem like George of Dorchester had any children. In the process of elimination, I'll need to research the Talbot sources more --- but that is where Sarah Prouse/Sprouse who m. Amos Cohee is from --- the claim that he is her brother was strengthened by reducing the probability that he is descended from George of Dorchester. He is still not completely eliminated as the son of George of Dorchester, but the probability is low.

[Ran Prouse](#)

???

There is no solid evidence that the George Spouse land transaction in Robertson County, Tennessee is the brother of Amos Cohea's wife, Sarah. added George Spouse to the family of George Prouse & his wife Rachel Harvey.

Jason's unjustified claim of "LOTS of problems with Ran's claims with his Ancestry" are suspect. Yes, the Maryland Pouses had their surname Spouse. His assertion that they are different people an assumption on his part. The different spelling occur in the same document! That doesn't there are two different people.

Finally and this is the most important point to make is that Jason's YDNA haplogroup is I-M253. The Maryland Prouse haplogroup is R-M269. As a matter of fact the Prouse/Prowse & others from England, Australia & Canada are R.

Until recently George Spouse-782 (WikiTree) was the son of Vincent Spouse & Mary Woodson! Vincent's father is Alexander Madison Spouse and they are haplogroup I. There is NO WAY that an I haplogroup individual can descend from an R haplogroup father. Jason condemns my genealogy ignoring the flawed assumptions in his own.

posted 3 months ago by [Ran Prouse](#)

1st - There is the land indenture....that is solid evidence that deserves attention and scrutiny to determine what their relationship is. That they are brother and sister is a very reasonable hypothesis. I'm open to the possibility that they could be cousins. The fact that we know she was married in Maryland and from Maryland, suggests he likely is too. It's the strongest piece of evidence I have that George Spouse m. Margaret Appleton was from Maryland. There is additional datapoints that strengthen that hypothesis, such as the Coombs marriage --- the Coombs were an early Merchant family from London around many of the early Washington relatives --- in Tennessee these Spouse's are 20 miles from the Washington's --- the Coombs are also married to the Bealls that Phillip Prouse from Exeter, Devon was married to --- also in line of that ancestral chart is the Baggot's that James Spouse of Tennessee is married to. The Baggot's have a family relationship to the Finch/Harvey marriage in London. Elizabeth Prouse married a John Finch in Maryland. There is ALOT of datapoints that strengthen that this is the same family that immigrated from Exeter, Devon ---> Maryland/Virginia ---> Tennessee, and so on.

Land indenture with George Spouse in Tennessee with Amos Cohee --- Sarah Spouse's husband

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9G1-XPLN?view=fullText&keywords=Amos+Cohee%2CGeorge+Spouse%2CAmos&groupId=TH-1971-47684-20682-86>

Sarah's marriage record with Amos Cohee

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F4JB-W53>

2nd - Randall does not have a DNA connection to the Prowse's either, he and I are the only two people researching who have DNA tested from Maryland. There is only 74 people who have tested - some of those are father/son --- some of the people who a part of that group don't even carry a surname that is even remotely similar to the family group study. No one who has DNA tested are saying they are from Exeter, Devon, which that family branch was seated there around 1500 starting with Lawrence Prouz --- they say Prowse, but this might be a case of two families being conflated --- if that is the case, then I wouldn't expect our DNA to match anyways. The easiest way to determine the haplo-group type for the old Prouz/Prouz/Praux family is to exhume the remains of someone like William Prouz of Gideligh Castle and that would determine what their haplo-group type was.

https://www.houseofprowse.com/post/susan-prowse-tako-s-may-prowse-highlights?utm_campaign=714e457d-8723-4de3-9a38-c423ef9ea3cd&utm_source=so&utm_medium=lp

A recent update on the Prowse blog post.

Not that the name of a descendant of a person named Prouz can't be Prowse ---- or there could be two Lawerence's that got conflated ??? --- but applying scrutiny to one's own research requires that the logic used to make those kinds of claims should be questioned by the primary researcher themselves ---- not some other person who they might feel is trying to "prove them wrong." Until there is something definitive like DNA that links the old Prouz/Prouz family to Prowse should it be accepted? Again from 1100-1500 a NPE (Non-Parental Event) could have also have occurred, so DNA can say --- well they migrated as this haplo-group and the mom got impregnated by someone who now carries a DNA profile other than her husband's. The 1620 Devon visitation does say the coat of arms of Prouz and Prowse are the same coat of arms, so it's not anything I'm even trying to disprove.

This is addressing the I vs R haplo-group he is talking about. Ran's trying to assert certainty and authority with a very small sample of people that have even

15 May: is also the marriage date of my daughter & son-in-law - whose surname is Northam (see above) - and I discovered a few years ago that a small town of this name on the west coast of Devon has an intriguing history with a link to our Prowse family! Lawrence Prowse (1480-1548), eldest son of John Prouz & Jone Orchard of West Challacombe Farm in Combe Martin, "inherited his father's North Devon holdings in Northam" (as well as in Bydeford Abbotsham & Dodescombe). The inhabitants of Northam, led by King Alfred the Great, repelled a massive Viking attack of 33 ships led by Hubba the Dane in 878 A.D. 1000 Danes were killed & buried in a mass grave at 'Bloody Corner' along with Hubba himself, and in Northam Woods is a copse called 'King Alfred's Cave', where Alfred is reputed to have hidden when chased by the Vikings!

tested.

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All of the sources say Lawrence Prouz/Prous --- Richard Prous m. Richord Vincent is granted an updated coat of arms in 1589 --- and the "e" added to the name. This is the family that likely immigrated in 1640ish. There is records in the early colonies with Prous.....this is what initially alerted me to research that spelling in England and how I learned so much more information than what was published in Prowse/Prouse research.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS9W-7HT?view=fullText&keywords=Lawrence%20Prouz%2CDevon%2CDEVON&lang=en&groupId=>
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-13PZ-GCWY?view=fullText&keywords=Prouz&lang=en&groupId=>

Research Notes

George Spouse has been added as a child of George Prouse & Rachel Harvey. There is no clear evidence at this time to substantiate his placement in this family.

I'm pretty confident that her name is not Harvey. This is a legacy claim. I have reason's why I would want her surname to be Harvey, but I don't want my reason's to take precedence over the analysis of evidence. My reason is the Harvey/Finch marriage in London, England --- it's not necessary though.

All my records are primary records. My records are strong - beyond suspected. They are all sourced and available to review on familysearch. The marriages in Tennessee also corroborate, Devon decent. The Coombs that are married to my line of Spouse's were Merchant's from London. The Baggots are from a different region, but they are closely aligned families through the Beale's. There is a lot of history and evidence pertaining to my lineage. Close relationships with the Washington's, Jefferson's, Madison's and the early Merchant industry in the colonies too.

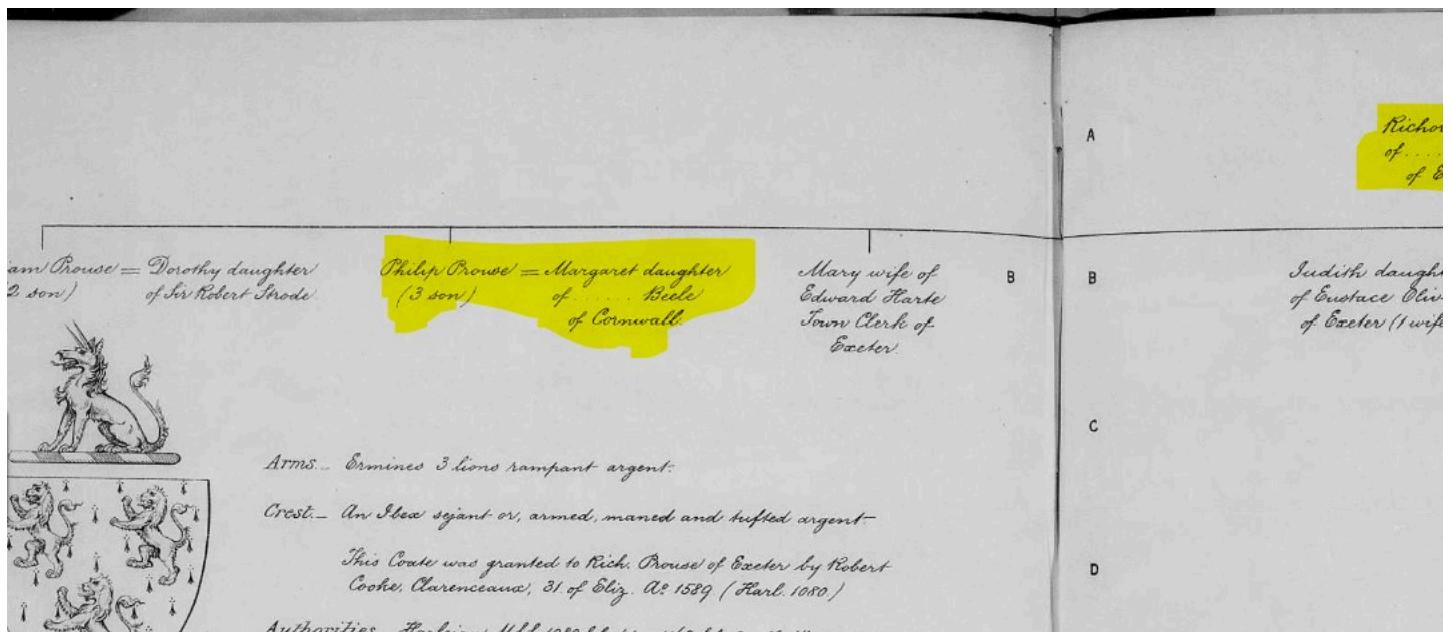
This is the will of Richard Prouz/Prouz/Prouse highlighted in yellow at the top --- another aristocratic family, a Huddleston is named as an executor of his will in 1607 --- and there is a land indenture with a Huddleston 1817 in Tennessee. It's the same line of Huddleston's.

PROUS Richard , 1607 Alderman of Exeter will dated 20 May 1607 proved A. 10 Nov. 1607 Executors son John and Huddleston : - - my brother of Bowhill
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-13PC-H3N9?view=fullText&keywords=PROUS%2CExeter&lang=en&groupId=TH-7771-101977-14779-44>
He has four sons, John, William, Phillip and Richard

George Spouse from David Huddleston Sept 23d This Indenture made this 27th day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred seventeen between David Huddleston

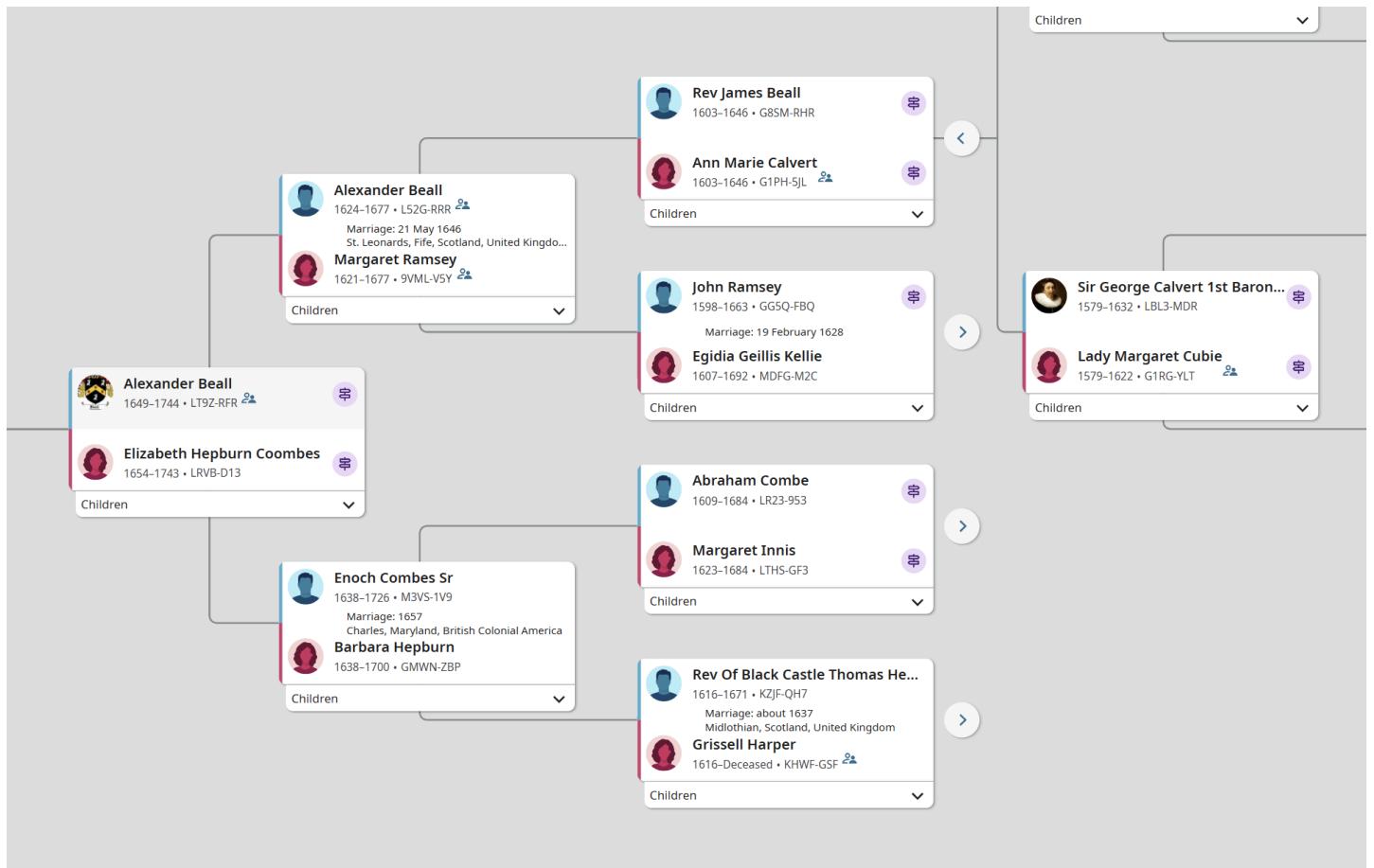
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4T-M22D?view=fullText&keywords=George+Spouse%2CTennessee%2CRobertson&lang=en&groupId=TH-909-61080-15944-52>

Philip is married to a Margaret Beale/Beele/Beall highlighted below. This used to be viewable in America, but recently I haven't been able to. It's a nice hand drawn genealogical chart. Same info on the vistiations, and I've seen other hand drawn charts that are less professional



These Beale/Beall/Beele end up in Maryland too. These are the same line of Coombs that are married to the Spouse's in Tennessee. The Calvert's are who received the charter from the Crown to colonize Maryland.

[Alexander Beall \(1649–1744\)](#), [Elizabeth Hepburn Coombes \(1654–1743\)](#) • Landscape View • Family Tree



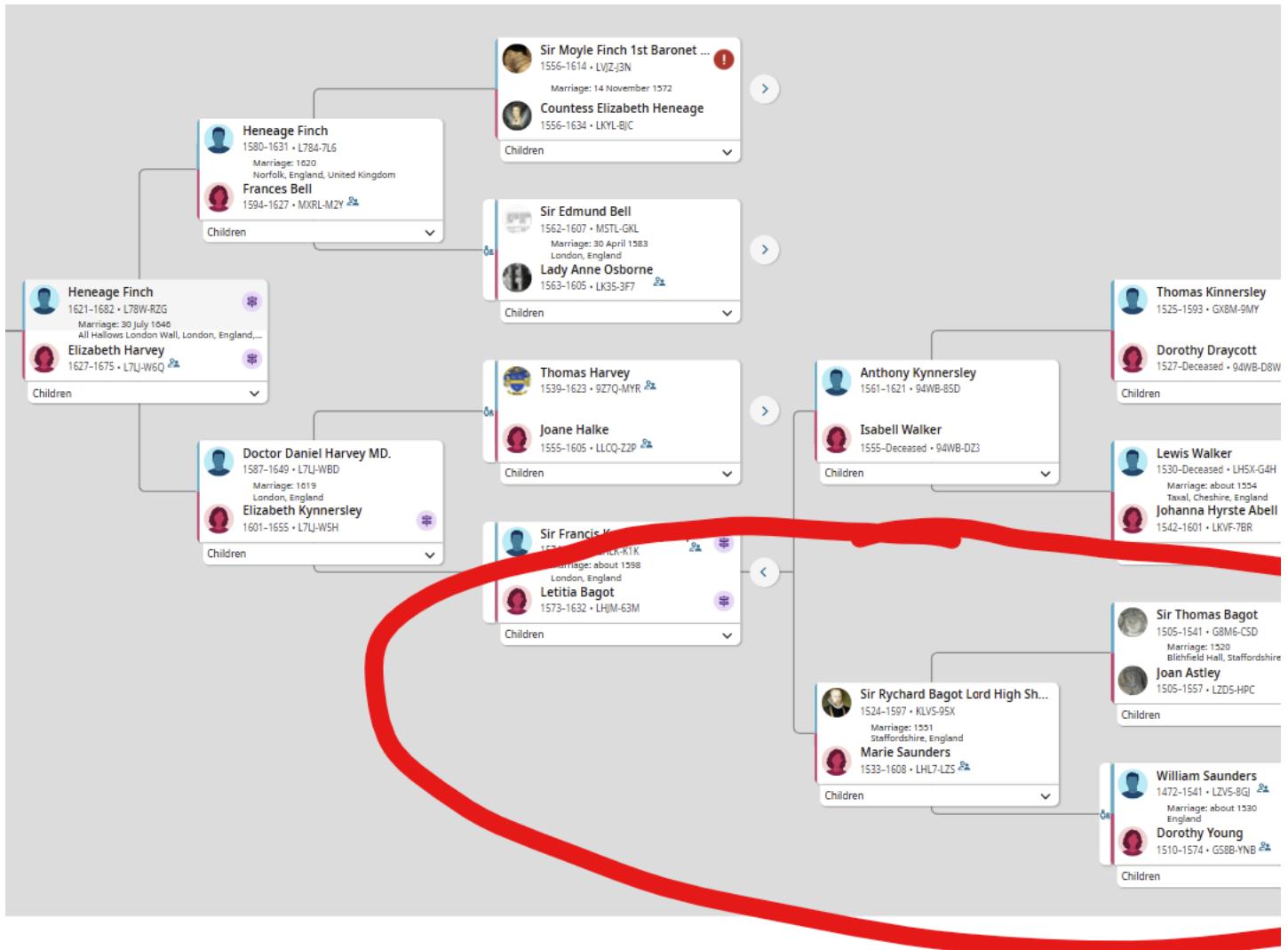
There is some other relationships in the early colonies, a marriage of Elizabeth Prouse's to John Finch --- the Finch's have the proxy marriage/relationship to the Baggot's.

The Baggots marriage to James Spouse in Tennessee

[Nancy Baggett \(1789–1833\)](#), [James W Spouse \(1795–1860\)](#) • [Landscape View](#) • [Family Tree](#)

Which are the same Baggots closely related to the Finch and Harvey marriage in London.

[Heneage Finch \(1621–1682\)](#), [Elizabeth Harvey \(1627–1675\)](#) • [Landscape View](#) • [Family Tree](#)



[John Finch \(1677-Deceased\)](#) • Person • Family Tree <---- this is the John Finch married to Elizabeth Prouse --- this is confirmed, but I haven't researched his exact ancestry yet. I've left some research notes with some sources. When I was doing all my research in Tennessee - I got very familiar with those relationships. When I got to Maryland, which would be the port of entry - and found records for Finch I researched it some. I immediately noticed surnames I was familiar with.

What's kind of strange is the aristocratic stature of these families --- and them having records here in the early colonies, but not much published research that identifies their ancestry. The Finch's are in Kent, England and these records are in Kent, Maryland. Died around 1677. I would say the same things about the Spouse/Prouse history.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3357-9T1G-VW?view=fullText&keywords=Finch%2CKent%2CMaryland&lang=en&groupId=https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C914-L4DL-N?view=fullText&keywords=Spouse&lang=en&groupId=TH-909-53331-199981-1> <--- a Francis Finch died around 1667

The same thing with Edward Cotton and his will — which I now have reason to believe is the Cotton family that was the Bishop and Arch-Deacon of Exeter and Totnes. This is the 1st place Spouse and Prouse is recorded in 1653 --- this also has the name William Ramsey which that surname is in the family chart with Coombs/Beale. Essentially what I'm displaying to you is that there is several proven data points that indicate that the lineage is correct and supported by many primary sources — and these family relationships in England and the Colonies/America.

The 1st English Civil War occurred about this time, and there was a plague sweeping the cities.

given unto the said Ignatius Warren one herte Calf about +
 three months old now running in the neck at Newtowm
 upon my lands. Fourthly to give unto George Prouse the
 Cow Calfe of young blanck that is now at Barnaby Trich-
 sons. Fifthly I do give unto James Grinaway the first Calf
 Calf that falls of all my Stock the next year. Sixthly I do
 give unto Thomas Matthews the younger, the young mare
 two years old provided that it be bring a mare foal before the
 Starkys Mare that it shall be given to Ignatius Warren.—
 Seventhly I do give unto M^r Darby Flanagan the bather
 bed bolster and pillow two red blankets and Green Egg and
 the best pair of Sheets that I have my Cinnamon Coloured Linen

with my Executors, that then I do give him and his wife
 from all the debt due unto me for the Labour of my three Servants
 and I do give and appoint unto him the Labour of W^m Gamby
 and George Prouse until St Andrews Day next ensuing
 the date hereof. Provided that he shall give them sufficient
 apparel during the time and for three months following.—

Some of my compiled research I used for specific search references

https://genealogy.blob.core.windows.net/maryland-archives/1600_Charles.pdf
https://genealogy.blob.core.windows.net/maryland-archives/1600_Somerset.pdf
https://genealogy.blob.core.windows.net/maryland-archives/1600_StMary.pdf
https://genealogy.blob.core.windows.net/maryland-archives/1600_Talbot.pdf
https://genealogy.blob.core.windows.net/maryland-archives/1700_Dorchester-Caroline.pdf
https://genealogy.blob.core.windows.net/maryland-archives/1700_Tablot.pdf
https://genealogy.blob.core.windows.net/maryland-archives/Prous_Prouz.pdf <--- A lot of the records for George Prouse 1600's

Hypothesis about the ancestry of Vincent Sprouse, James Sprouse and Charles Sprouse in Virginia

https://goodfaithparadigm.blob.core.windows.net/genealogy/Charles-Prouse-Sprouse_Progenitors-of-Virginia-Sprouses.pdf

Records of other individual Sprouse/Prouse in Maryland 1600's

1668 Hopeful – Maryland John Prouse

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C914-LQBY-6?view=fullText&keywords=Prowse&lang=en&groupId=TH-909-53331-133742-44>

1666 George Thompson acknowledged this evening Indenture on to Robert Prouse and Charles Hill

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9XW-NTYS?view=fullText&keywords=Prouse&lang=en&groupId=M92V-LQZ>

1675 Whereas Charles Prouse and Edward Williams were upon suspicon of killing hoggs upon the Sabbath Day that was none of theirre owne bound over to this Cort: by mr: Charles Ballard to answer the Complainete The said Charles Prouse and Edward Williams appeares and Confest that they killed A hogg upon the Sabbath Day that was theirre owne

<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000087/html/am87--537.html>

Records of individual Spouse/Prouse in Virginia 1600's

Deeds, Wills, Etc, 3, 1657-1662, York County, Virginia: York. Deeds 1657-1662, Wil

The agent or Edward Print aged 27 years or thereabout said that he have ward Robert & which is servant to Mr Buck say that he had some years to some & for many years with ward him say See came in for a further he had not the before me this as or Junters The fowing Edward Prouse

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9PX-2K7T?view=fullText&keywords=Prouse&lang=en&groupId=M9J6-6L9>

1667 Land Patents Book 6, 1666-1679, State of Virginia: Virginia.

Berkeley St Govern & give and grant unto Henry Prouse

Two hundred acres of land in the County of Gloster upon the Easterross river beginning at a small that parted this Lands and the Land of Roger Leonard

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLZ-PSKL-G?view=fullText&keywords=Prouse&lang=en&groupId=TH-909-73223-71561-29>

1683

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9PF-83VF-M?view=fullText&keywords=Prouse&lang=en&groupId=M9ZY-FTE>

My well beloved wife Elizabeth Prouse whom I constitute and appoint my Sole Executrix

John Evans

I did a quick search for John Evans

[John Evans \(1630–1686\), Sarah Evans \(1630–1712\) • Landscape View • Family Tree](#)

John EVANS, Sr. (L1QV-5JT) Birth About 1635 • Plymouth, Devon, England. (In 1629, his parents were living in Exeter, Devon, England.) Lived At Nutters Neck 1694

[Northern Neck Grants Book 2, 1694-1700, State of Virginia: Virginia. Land Grants 1690–1692](#)

Robert Prouse

As you can imagine, that is a lot of research hours. I've tried to present the info in a way that is easily digestible, easy to comprehend and understand the relationship dynamics from England --> Maryland/Virginia --> Tennessee. Which data points indicate to me the validity of hypothesis. The Spouse's in Tennessee that stayed in Tennessee did well there. A couple presidents of the local bank, heavily involved in the Tobacco industry, one of the family members from Tennessee went out to Oregon and started a chain five-and-dime stores called [Sprouse and Reitz](#) too.