

# Wanted for Nixon Visit to Ireland: One Millhouse

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DUBLIN, Sept. 24—United States Embassy officials here have been scouring the Irish countryside for distant cousins to meet President and Mrs. Nixon—the former Patricia Ryan—during their forthcoming visit here.

They have a problem: There is no Millhouse, and Ireland is full of Ryans.

Virgil Randolph, First Secretary at the embassy, says his quest for Ryans and a Millhouse (as the Irish spell the President's middle name) has taken him to four counties — Kildare, Tipperary, Clare and Mayo.

"We've had some success," Mr. Randolph said, "in trying to trace Ryan relatives in Ballinrobe, County Mayo, where Mrs. Nixon's paternal grandfather was born and lived before he emigrated to America."

### A 1699 Millhouse

Other distant cousins of Mrs. Nixon are believed to be living in the counties of Tipperary and Clare, where efforts were being made to identify them among the many Ryans in the area, he added.

Mr. Randolph, along with John D. Moore, United States Ambassador to Ireland, has made several trips to Timahoe, a small hamlet about 20 miles northwest of Dublin in

County Kildare, where the President's great-great-great-grandfather, Thomas Millhouse, lived.

This ancestor of the President was born in Carrickfergus, County Antrim, Antrim, in 1699 and was a small boy when his parents move to Timahoe, according to Mr. Randolph. Thomas's father, John, died in Timahoe in 1710 and is buried in an old Quaker graveyard, which the President plans to visit.

Thomas married Sarah Miller at Timahoe in 1721, and eight years later they emigrated to the United States, settling in Pennsylvania. A younger brother

Robert, emigrated to South Carolina.

Since the 18th century the name Millhouse has been variously spelled in Ireland, as Milhous, Millhous and Millhouse.

Mr. Nixon is not unfamiliar with his family tree. Soon after becoming President the White House staff gave him an Irish setter, which he named Timahoe.

Mr. Randolph said it was hard to identify Mrs. Nixon's kinfolk among the numerous Ryans, but the problem of tracing Millhouses was even worse. "We've been unable to find one throughout all of Ireland," he added.

### Timahoe on Itinerary

Nevertheless, the President is planning to stop off in Timahoe, and for two weeks the fewer than 100 inhabitants have been tidying up the hamlet and its disused Quaker burial ground.

The Quaker community in Timahoe, which is on the edge of the Bog of Allen, the largest peat bog in Ireland, is believed to have broken

up about the turn of the century. Some officials call the last burial about 60 years ago, and Thomas Cummin, a 99-year-old saddler, says he remembers a large slab that contained the names of all those interred. There were no individual grave markers.

Efforts to excavate the foundations of the Quaker meeting house, to trace broken fragments of the slab and reconstruct names and dates, have been unsuccessful, according to Mr. Randolph.

Setting up the machinery to cope with the logistics of the Nixon visit Oct. 3 to 5 appears to be as daunting a task as flushing out the Ryans and Millhouses. More than 100 people are being flown in "from embassies all over Europe," Mr. Randolph said, "to cover such services as communications, security, press and administration."

Many of them have already arrived at the embassy, which has a normal staff of 25 Americans and 40 Irishmen.



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**Relatives of Nixons were sought in Ballinrobe (1), Timahoe (2) and elsewhere.**