

Thomas Milhous

SUBJECT	Thomas Milhous
DATE	Oct 6, 2026
ANALYSIS	Brick-wall research
CONFIDENCE	Inconclusive

ABSTRACT

Thomas Milhous's parents are currently unknown on both sides — no father or mother is named anywhere in your family file data, and nothing has yet been found to name them. The single most promising lead is the 1721 Religious Society of Friends marriage certificate for Thomas and Sarah Miller, since Irish Quaker marriage certificates of this period routinely name both fathers and list witnessing kin, but the exact meeting is unidentified — "Timahoe" could refer to either the County Kildare or the Queen's County (Laois) place of that name, and the search must test both before concluding the record does not survive. The biggest obstacle is that nothing in this file is sourced: every date, from the 1699 birth to the 1770 death, is an unsupported entry, and a seventeen-year gap between the 1721 marriage and the 1738 birth of the only recorded child, William, leaves open the real possibility of unrecorded earlier children and an unverified migration date. Resolving the parentage question will likely require combining an Irish Quaker marriage or birth record with a Pennsylvania certificate of removal that names the issuing Irish meeting.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Identify the biological parents, the original documentary sources for birth, marriage, and death, and the migration record documenting the move from Ireland to Pennsylvania for Thomas Milhous, born 14 Mar 1698/1699 at Carrickfergus, Antrim County, Ireland, who married Sarah Miller on 1 Apr 1721 at Timahoe, County Kildare, Ireland, and died 1770 at Pikeland, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

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1 Findings

The answer as it stands, what would settle it, and what is still in conflict.

1.1 What Would Crack This Case

- **Quaker meeting marriage record naming both parties and their home meetings** — found at the Timahoe Monthly Meeting records (Religious Society of Friends, County Kildare), for example a 1721 marriage certificate listing witnesses and parental consent, which often names both sets of parents.
- **Probate or will record naming heirs and residence** — found at the Chester County, Pennsylvania Register of Wills or Orphans' Court, for example an estate file opened circa 1770 for Pikeland Township naming Sarah Milhous and children.
- **Meeting certificate of removal documenting emigration from Ireland** — found in Quaker monthly meeting minute books for Timahoe or a neighboring Irish meeting, circa 1721-1738, recording a transfer to a Pennsylvania meeting.
- **Baptismal or birth entry from Carrickfergus-area parish or meeting registers** — found at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland or surviving Lisburn/Antrim meeting records, circa 1699, though regional record loss makes this the least certain target.
- **Chester County land or tax records naming Thomas Milhous at arrival** — found at Chester County deed books or tax assessment lists, circa 1721-1738, which would bracket the family's first appearance in Pennsylvania.

1.2 Research Conclusion

Confidence: Inconclusive — every fact in this file is an uncited assertion, no Irish or Pennsylvania record has yet been examined, and the next steps are exploratory searches rather than confirmations of a leading hypothesis.

1.3 Case Summary

What we know

Your family file data supplied for this case records four bare facts about Thomas Milhous: a birth on 14 March 1698/1699 at Carrickfergus, Antrim County, Ireland; a marriage to Sarah Miller on 1 April 1721 at Timahoe, County Kildare, Ireland; and a death in 1770 at Pikeland, Chester County, Pennsylvania. All three events are tagged in the file as derivative and uncited, meaning they were entered as fact by whoever built this family tree but carry no reference to an original parish register, meeting record, deed, or probate file. The same is true of Sarah Miller's recorded birth around 1700/1701 (place not given) and her death on 26 August 1775 (place not given), and of their son William Milhous, born 12 June 1738 in Chester County, Pennsylvania and died 24 January 1826 in Belmont County, Ohio. No parents are recorded for either Thomas or Sarah — both his father and his mother, and both of hers, are blank in the file. No siblings are recorded for Thomas, and no spouse other than Sarah, and no children other than William. In short: what exists is a skeleton of four life events across two generations, with no documentary backing for any of them and no extended family named at all.

What is missing

The core gap is parentage: no record names Thomas Milhous's father or mother, and nothing in the file offers even a candidate name to test. Beyond that, no original source has been identified for any of the three personal events — the 1699 birth, the 1721 marriage, or the 1770 death — so even the "known" facts about Thomas are not yet established in the genealogical sense; they are

assertions pending verification. No record bridges the Atlantic crossing: the file places the family in Ireland only through 1721 and in Chester County, Pennsylvania only from 1738, leaving a seventeen-year window in which the actual emigration date, ship, and port are undocumented. No record has been found naming a specific Religious Society of Friends monthly meeting that the family belonged to on either side of the ocean, which matters because, absent state-kept vital registration in colonial Pennsylvania before 1906 and the general fragility of 18th-century Irish parish coverage, the Quaker meeting registers are very likely the only vital records that can exist for these people. No probate, deed, tax, or land record has yet been checked in Chester County to confirm the 1770 death, identify Thomas's full set of heirs, or test whether William was in fact his son. And no record has yet confirmed whether children were born to Thomas and Sarah in Ireland between 1721 and their presumed emigration — the seventeen-year gap to William's 1738 birth is wide enough to hide an entire unrecorded first family.

The most likely explanation

The leading working hypothesis is that Thomas and Sarah were members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) both in Ireland and after their move to Pennsylvania, and that their 1721 marriage, their emigration, and their deaths were all recorded in the meeting registers typical of that faith community. This fits the pattern of other Irish Quaker families relocating to Chester County, Pennsylvania in the early 18th century, and it explains why no civil vital record exists for any of these events — there was no civil registration for marriages or deaths in either Ireland or colonial Pennsylvania at this time, so a faith community's own internal record-keeping is the only plausible paper trail. What argues for it: the family's known places (Timahoe, an identifiably Quaker district; Pikeland, within reach of several Chester County Quaker meetings) are consistent with Quaker settlement geography. What argues against it, or at least complicates it: Carrickfergus itself is not a documented Quaker meeting seat — the established Ulster meetings were at Lisburn, Lurgan, and Ballinderry — so the 1699 birthplace may be a later family tradition, a civil parish of residence, or confusion with a different Antrim location, rather than a precise register location. There is also a real risk that the Antrim-born infant of 1699 and the Kildare bridegroom of 1721 are two different men of the same name separated by two hundred kilometers, given that no document yet links the two events. A secondary explanation worth equal weight is that William Milhous (b. 1738) is not actually the son of this marriage at all, but a grandson or a son by a second, unrecorded wife — nothing in the file proves his parentage, and the seventeen-year silence between 1721 and 1738 is exactly the kind of gap that produces this error in compiled pedigrees. Both explanations are plausible and neither can be preferred over the other without new evidence; this case is best described as unresolved rather than leaning toward one story.

What would settle it

An original Quaker marriage certificate from the Timahoe-area monthly meeting would be the single most decisive document, since such certificates typically name both fathers, the home meeting of each party, and a list of witnesses who form a ready-made cluster of associated families — this would very likely resolve the parentage question outright. If that certificate cannot be found under County Kildare, the same search must be run under Queen's County (Laois), since a Timahoe exists in both and the stronger Quaker presence historically sits toward Laois; a negative result in one county is not evidence the record does not exist, only that the wrong jurisdiction was searched. A Chester County, Pennsylvania probate file for Thomas Milhous, dated around 1770, would not identify his own parents, but it would prove or disprove William's status as an heir and name any other children, which is essential before William can be trusted as the bridge back to Ireland. A Quaker certificate of removal accepted by a Chester County monthly meeting between 1721 and

1738 would be the piece that currently does not exist in any form in this file: it would name the Irish meeting that issued it, which in turn tells the researcher exactly which register to pull for the marriage and any Irish-born children. If none of these searches produce a hit, that absence itself is meaningful — it would suggest the family was not actually in formal Quaker membership, which would redirect the entire research strategy toward civil, estate, and land records instead.

Where the difficulties are

The first difficulty is a jurisdictional ambiguity baked into the file itself: "Timahoe" names two distinct places in Ireland, one in County Kildare and one in Queen's County (now County Laois), and the stronger Quaker meeting history favors the Laois location, meaning a single-county search risks a false negative. The second is calendar style: the recorded birth date of 14 March 1698/1699 reflects the Old Style calendar, under which the year turned on 25 March, so the same event might be filed under either 1698 or 1699 depending on how a given register was kept — any birth search needs to run a window rather than a single year. The third is surname and given-name spelling variation: Milhous appears historically as Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhous, and Mellhouse, and Miller is easily rendered Millar, Mills, or Mellor in 18th-century hands, so any search run on only the file's current spellings is likely to miss the actual entries. The fourth is the Atlantic crossing itself: there is no civil emigration registration of any kind for this period, so the only possible evidence is an internal Quaker transfer document, and such documents survive unevenly. The fifth is the absence of state-kept vital registration on both sides of the ocean for this era — Ireland's Quaker registers and Pennsylvania's lack of civil registration before 1906 mean that meeting books and probate files are not merely the best sources, they are very likely the only sources that can exist for these specific events, which raises the stakes on finding and reading them correctly. Finally, there is a genuine identity risk in the file's own structure: a 200-kilometer gap between the presumed Antrim birthplace and the Kildare marriage place, and a seventeen-year gap between the Kildare marriage and the Pennsylvania birth of the only recorded child, are each wide enough to have absorbed a different person, a missing first marriage, or missing children, and none of these possibilities can be ruled out from the data on hand.

1.4 Genealogical Proof Standard — Gaps To Address

For this case to meet the Genealogical Proof Standard, these proof-burden gaps still need to be closed beyond the immediate next actions below.

- **Element 1 (reasonably exhaustive search):** No Irish parish or Quaker meeting records have yet been searched for the 1699 birth, the 1721 marriage, or any Irish children; no Chester County probate, land, tax, or meeting records have yet been searched for the 1770 and 1775 deaths or William's 1738 birth.
- **Element 2 (complete and accurate citations):** Every fact currently in the file — birth, marriage, and death for Thomas, Sarah, and William — carries no source citation at all.
- **Element 3 (analysis and correlation):** No corroborating record has yet been compared against any claim in the file; nothing has been cross-checked between the Irish and Pennsylvania sides of the story.
- **Element 4 (resolution of conflicting evidence):** Not yet attempted for any event, and in practice cannot be attempted until a second, independent record for each event is located.
- **Element 5 (soundly reasoned written conclusion):** The birth, marriage, and death all currently stand as unsupported assertions rather than conclusions reasoned from evidence.

1.5 Top 3 Priority Actions

1. Search the FamilySearch Catalog for Religious Society of Friends marriage registers covering both County Kildare and Queen's County (Laois), and read 1719-1723 under all surname variants for the Thomas Milhous and Sarah Miller marriage. Task 1 — This single certificate is the most likely document to name both fathers directly, and it is free to search right now. If found: Names Thomas's father (and likely mother), identifies the correct Timahoe and meeting, and supplies a witness list forming the family's associate cluster.
2. Browse the Ancestry or FamilySearch Chester County, Pennsylvania Quaker meeting minute books, 1718-1745, for a certificate of removal accepted on behalf of Thomas Milhous and family. Task 4 / task 5 — This is the one document type that would name the issuing Irish meeting, directly resolving the Kildare-versus-Laois ambiguity and bracketing the emigration date. If found: Names the Irish meeting of origin and the arrival window, pointing the Irish search directly at the correct register.
3. Search the Chester County, Pennsylvania probate index, 1765-1780, for a will or administration naming Thomas Milhous of Pikeland Township. Task 7 — Chester County is not a burned-record jurisdiction, so this search is cheap and directly tests whether William was actually named as an heir. If found: Confirms William's parentage and the 1770 death, and names Sarah and any other children, which validates or overturns the single-child assumption in the file.

2 Evidence in your file

Read out of your own file: the dates, the places as they are written, and where the record is thin.

2.1 Verbatim Place Strings

- Carrickfergus,Antrim County,Ireland
- Pikeland,Chester County,Pennsylvania
- Timahoe,County Kildare,Ireland
- Chester Co.,Pennsylvania
- Belmont Co.,Ohio

2.2 Timeline

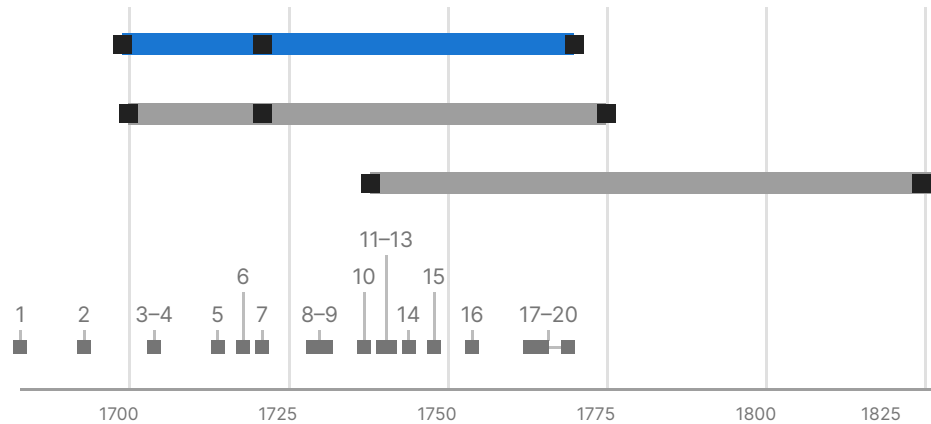
Who lived when

Thomas Milhous
The person you are researching

Sarah Miller
Spouse

William Milhous
Child

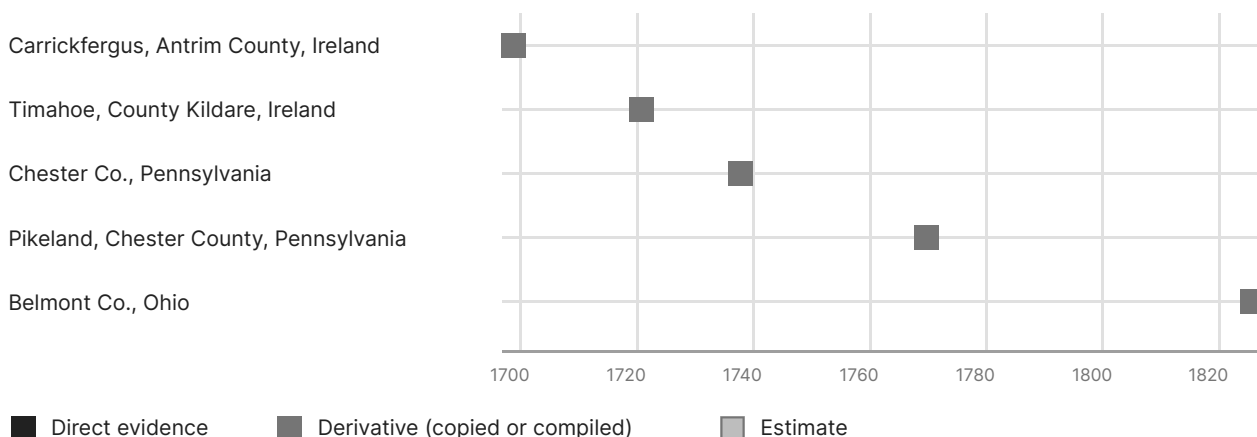
Events of the time
listed under the chart



- 1 1683 — Chester County founding
- 2 1693 — Antrim County enumeration (hearth money rolls)
- 3 1704 — Irish Test Act extended
- 4 1704 — Irish religious census (convert rolls begin)
- 5 1714 — Hanoverian succession in Britain and Ireland
- 6 1718 — Rent increases drive Ulster emigration wave
- 7 1721 — Quaker emigration to Pennsylvania intensifies
- 8 1729 — Peak decade of Irish emigration to Philadelphia
- 9 1731 — Chester County township boundaries reorganized
- 10 1737 — Walking Purchase land deal
- 11 1740 — Great Irish Famine begins
- 12 1740 — Pennsylvania provincial tax assessment era
- 13 1741 — Great Irish Famine ends
- 14 1744 — King George's War begins
- 15 1748 — King George's War ends
- 16 1754 — French and Indian War begins
- 17 1763 — French and Indian War ends
- 18 1765 — Stamp Act crisis
- 19 1765 — Pennsylvania provincial tax assessment
- 20 1769 — Pennsylvania road and market expansion near Philadelphia

Each bar is the years your own file records for that person; dots are dated events. A bar that trails off is an end the file does not record, and an empty lane is somebody it records no dates for at all. The numbered marks in the bottom row are events of the time, listed under the chart.

Places over time



Each row is a place, in the order the family first appears there, and each mark is a dated event in that place — darker marks rest on stronger evidence, and the gaps between them are years your file says nothing about.

Focus Person — Thomas Milhous (b. 1699 - d. 1770)

1. **1699** - born 14 Mar 1698/1699 at Carrickfergus, Antrim County, Ireland [derivative evidence, uncited] [source: GEDCOM]
2. **1721** - married Sarah Miller on 1 Apr 1721 at Timahoe, County Kildare, Ireland [derivative evidence, uncited] [source: GEDCOM]
4. **1770** - died at Pikeland, Chester County, Pennsylvania [derivative evidence, uncited] [source: GEDCOM]

Spouse — Sarah Miller (b. 1700/1701 - d. 1775)

1. **1700/1701** - born, place not recorded [derivative evidence, uncited] [source: GEDCOM]
2. **1721** - married Thomas Milhous on 1 Apr 1721 at Timahoe, County Kildare, Ireland [derivative evidence, uncited] [source: GEDCOM]
3. **1775** - died 26 Aug 1775, place not recorded [derivative evidence, uncited] [source: GEDCOM]

Child — William Milhous (b. 1738 - d. 1826)

1. **1738** - born 12 Jun 1738 at Chester Co., Pennsylvania [derivative evidence, uncited] [source: GEDCOM]
2. **1826** - died 24 Jan 1826 at Belmont Co., Ohio [derivative evidence, uncited] [source: GEDCOM]

2.3 Family Structure Summary

What is recorded, and how well

	Birth	Marriage	Death
Thomas Milhous The person you are researching	derivative	derivative	derivative
Sarah Miller Wife	derivative	derivative	derivative
William Milhous Son	derivative	none	derivative

Direct evidence
 Derivative (copied or compiled)
 Estimate
 Not recorded

Each square is one fact about one person: dark where a record states it directly, lighter where it rests on a copy or an estimate, and empty where your file records nothing at all.

Thomas Milhous (b. 1699 - d. 1770): father = unknown, mother = unknown, spouse(s) = Sarah Miller, children = William Milhous. Sarah Miller (b. 1700/1701 - d. 1775): father = unknown, mother = unknown, spouse(s) = Thomas Milhous, children = William Milhous. William Milhous (b. 1738 - d. 1826): father = Thomas Milhous, mother = Sarah Miller, spouse(s) = none recorded, children = none recorded.

2.4 Patterns in Your Existing Data

- **Date-window anomaly:** There is a 17-year gap between the 1721 marriage in Ireland and the first recorded child, William, born in 1738 in Pennsylvania. This gap is wide enough that earlier, Ireland-born children may exist and simply not be recorded in this file.
- **Migration-timing signal:** The family's only two documented locations are Ireland (to 1721) and Chester County, Pennsylvania (from 1738). No residence, land, or meeting record bridges the transatlantic move, making the exact emigration date and ship unverified.

2.5 Top 3 Missing Facts

- The identity of Thomas Milhous's father and mother, both currently unknown.
- A primary source (parish, meeting, or civil record) proving the 14 Mar 1698/1699 Carrickfergus birth date and place.
- A migration or naturalization record documenting the move from Ireland to Chester County, Pennsylvania, and a probate or will record confirming the 1770 death at Pikeland.

2.6 Genealogical Proof Standard Assessment

How close this is to proof

	No	Partial	Yes	
Every likely record searched Reasonably exhaustive search				No
Every fact has its source Complete & accurate citations				No
Records compared with each other Analysis & correlation				No
Disagreements explained Resolution of conflicting evidence				Not yet attempted
The conclusion follows from the evidence Soundly reasoned conclusion				No

Each row is one of the five tests genealogists use before calling a conclusion proved, and the more of its meter is filled, the closer this research is to passing it.

Birth - verdict summary

1. Reasonably exhaustive search - No: no Irish parish or meeting records have yet been searched for this 1699 birth.
2. Complete and accurate citations - No: the birth fact carries no source citation.
3. Analysis and correlation - No: no corroborating record has been compared against this claim.
4. Resolution of conflicting evidence - Not yet attempted: no conflicting birth data currently exists to resolve.
5. Soundly reasoned written conclusion - No: the birth stands as an unsupported assertion.

Marriage - verdict summary

1. Reasonably exhaustive search - No: Timahoe meeting records have not been checked for this 1721 marriage.
2. Complete and accurate citations - No: no source is cited for the marriage.
3. Analysis and correlation - No: no comparison to meeting minutes or civil records has been done.
4. Resolution of conflicting evidence - Not yet attempted: no conflicting marriage data is present.
5. Soundly reasoned written conclusion - No: the marriage date and place are unsupported assertions.

Death - verdict summary

1. Reasonably exhaustive search - No: Chester County probate and burial records have not been searched.
2. Complete and accurate citations - No: no source is cited for the 1770 death.
3. Analysis and correlation - No: no cross-record correlation has been performed.
4. Resolution of conflicting evidence - Not yet attempted: no conflicting death data is present.

5. Soundly reasoned written conclusion - No: the death fact is an unsupported assertion.

2.7 Source Citations (Evidence Explained format)

1. No source citations found in your family file. Every fact in the timeline is currently unsourced; obtaining and citing the original records is the first step toward complete and accurate source citations (the Genealogical Proof Standard's second element).

2.8 Source Quality Audit

ID	Originality	Information primacy	Evidence directness	Reliability flags	Upgrade recommendation
-	-	-	-	-	Add primary-source citations to every event before applying the Genealogical Proof Standard.

Recommendation: Records-first, DNA as confirmation. Conventional Irish Quaker/parish and Chester County probate and land records have not yet been exhausted for this case, so documentary research should come first. Once those avenues are exhausted, a Y-DNA test on a documented Milhous-line male descendant would help confirm the paternal line and could identify other Milhous families in Ireland or Pennsylvania, while autosomal results (AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage) could help connect descendants to collateral Milhous or Miller lines. Ask the user whether any descendant has tested on these platforms or uploaded to GEDmatch.

2.9 User Note Interpretations

Note 1 - No user-supplied free-text notes

No user-supplied free-text notes were attached to this analysis.

2.10 Data Integrity Issues

- No data integrity issues detected based on the chronology and relationships recorded.

3 Hypotheses

Each explanation considered, with the evidence for it and how strongly it is held.

Acknowledged prior research: your file carries no source citations at all — every birth, marriage, and death for Thomas Milhous, Sarah Miller, and William Milhous is recorded without any record behind it. Nothing has been marked as already found, so no search below repeats work you have done. I have treated the 1699 Carrickfergus birth, the 1721 Timahoe marriage, and the 1770 Pikeland death as working claims to be proved rather than as established facts. A note on cluster research: FAN club (friends, associates, and neighbors) analysis is not viable on this dataset as supplied, because the file contains fewer than two recurring associates — no witnesses, sponsors, or neighbors are recorded anywhere. The hypotheses below therefore build the associate cluster from scratch, starting with the two named relatives you do have (Sarah Miller and William Milhous) and with the record types that manufacture witness lists: Quaker marriage certificates, meeting minutes, probate files, and tax lists. --- ## task 1: Timahoe Quaker Marriage Certificate, 1721 —

Locate the 1 April 1721 Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) marriage certificate for Thomas Milhous and Sarah Miller in the Irish monthly meeting registers covering Timahoe, since such certificates routinely name both fathers and dozens of witnessing kin.

Identity-match verdict: Moderate (50–70% confidence band)

Proof argument so far: The claim is that Thomas Milhous and Sarah Miller married under the care of a Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) monthly meeting at Timahoe on 1 April 1721, and that the surviving marriage certificate names Thomas's parents. The precision of the recorded date in your file (a specific day, not a year) suggests it was copied from a real register abstract rather than invented, and Timahoe's status as a Quaker meeting seat is consistent with a Friends marriage rather than a Church of Ireland one. Of the Genealogical Proof Standard, only a partial start on analysis and correlation exists; reasonably exhaustive search, complete and accurate citations, and a soundly reasoned written conclusion all remain open. One caution: there is a Timahoe in County Kildare and another in Queen's County (County Laois) near Mountmellick, so the covering monthly meeting must be identified before concluding the registers are absent. Currently insufficient to claim parentage — the certificate itself is the single highest-value document in this entire case.

Records that would close the case:

- Irish Quaker marriage certificate or register entry, 1721, Leinster Quarterly Meeting series — would name both fathers and the witness cluster — tier shift: Moderate to Conclusive on parentage.
- Monthly meeting minutes recording the couple's two declarations of intention, 1720–1721 — would name the meeting each party belonged to and any parental consent — tier shift: Moderate to Strong.
- Irish Quaker birth register entry for Thomas Milhous, 1698/1699 — would corroborate the parents named on the certificate — tier shift: Strong to Conclusive.

3.1 Priority

High

3.2 Goal

Identify and open the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) marriage register or certificate series covering Timahoe, County Kildare, Ireland, and find the 1 April 1721 marriage of Thomas Milhous and Sarah Miller.

3.3 Repository/Location

FamilySearch Catalog (the place-based catalog of the FamilySearch library's microfilmed and digitized holdings) — FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>)

3.4 Steps

1. Open FamilySearch Catalog and type "Ireland, Kildare" in the Place field, then submit.
2. In the topic-grouped results, click the "Church records" heading and look for any collection title containing "Friends", "Quaker", or "Society of Friends".
3. Repeat the Place field search with "Ireland, Queen's" and with "Ireland, Laois" — coverage for Timahoe may be filed under the neighboring Mountmellick-area meeting rather than Kildare.
4. Open any Quaker marriage register or certificate collection found and use the camera icon to

browse images for 1720-1722; read the entries for Thomas Milhous under the spellings Milhous, Millhouse, Milhouse, and Millhouse.

5. Copy out every name on the certificate — the parents, the bride's parents, and all witnesses — and record the volume and page for citation.
6. If the catalog lists no Quaker collection for either county, or the film is restricted to a Family History Center, the next move is the Dublin holding library in task 2, and the aggregator route in task 10.

3.5 Expected Outcome

A dated 1721 marriage entry naming Thomas Milhous's father (and possibly mother), Sarah Miller's father, the home meeting of each party, and the full witness list that becomes your associate cluster.

--- ## task 2: Dublin Quaker Library Holds the Originals — Request a direct lookup of the 1721 Timahoe marriage and the Milhous family entries in the original Irish Quaker registers held by the Religious Society of Friends Historical Library in Dublin, the repository of record for all Irish meeting books.

Identity-match verdict: Moderate (50-70% confidence band)

Proof argument so far: The claim is identical to task 1 — that a 1721 Quaker marriage record for this couple survives — but routed to the institution that physically holds the Irish meeting books rather than to a microfilm aggregator. Irish Quaker records were never centralized in the Public Record Office of Ireland, which is precisely why they escaped the 1922 Four Courts destruction that consumed most Church of Ireland registers and pre-1922 wills. This hypothesis exists because aggregator coverage of Irish Quaker material is thin and uneven; a null result online does not mean a null result in Dublin. The Genealogical Proof Standard element most directly served here is reasonably exhaustive search. Confidence in the hypothesis rests on the institutional survival pattern rather than on any examined document, so it remains a strong research direction rather than a defensible claim.

Records that would close the case:

- Original Leinster Quarterly Meeting marriage certificate, 1721 — would name both fathers directly — tier shift: Moderate to Conclusive.
- Monthly meeting minute book entries 1720-1738 for the Milhous family — would supply the removal certificate date for the move to Pennsylvania — tier shift: Insufficient to Strong on the migration question.
- Irish Quaker birth and burial registers for the Milhous surname, 1650-1740 — would reveal siblings and the parental household — tier shift: Moderate to Strong on parentage.

4 Review

An independent pass over each hypothesis: the assumptions worth questioning, and where the reasoning is weakest.

Payoff and effort for each idea

			Try these first	
More likely to break the wall		2, 4	1, 3	
	16		5, 8	6, 13
			7, 10, 15, 17	14
	20	11	12	9, 18
				19
Less likely				
	Harder to test		Easier to test	

- 1 Timahoe Quaker Marriage Certificate, 1721 · moderate
- 2 Dublin Quaker Library Holds the Originals · moderate
- 3 Ulster Quaker Birth Register for the 1698/1699 Birth · weak
- 4 Certificate of Removal Received in Chester County · moderate
- 5 The Same Chester County Meeting Books on Microfilm · moderate
- 6 Published Quaker Abstracts for Pennsylvania · moderate
- 7 Chester County Probate Names the Heirs · moderate
- 8 Son William's Ohio Meeting Records Name His Origin · moderate
- 9 Free Global Name Triage Before Any Paid Search · weak
- 10 Irish Quaker Material Through a Subscription Aggregator · weak
- 11 Pennsylvania Land Warrant Dates the Arrival · weak
- 12 Tax Lists Bracket the Year of Arrival · weak
- 13 Published Ohio Quaker Abstracts as the Shortcut · moderate
- 14 Nineteenth-Century County History Carries a Family Sketch · weak
- 15 Irish County Heritage Centre Index as an Alternate Route · weak
- 16 The Pennsylvania Originals at the Friends Historical Library · moderate
- 17 Chester County Deeds Trace the Pikeland Property · weak
- 18 Irish National Collections as the Backstop for Antrim · insufficient
- 19 Burial Grounds Confirm the Deaths · weak
- 20 Y-DNA Ties the Pennsylvania Line to an Irish Milhous Family · insufficient

Each number is one idea from the review, placed by how easy it is to test and how likely it is to break the wall, so the ones to try first gather in the top right.

4.1 Assumptions to Question

1. **Place — "Timahoe, County Kildare" may be the wrong Timahoe.** There is a Timahoe in County Kildare and a Timahoe in Queen's County (now County Laois) close to Mountmellick, and the Quaker presence in Leinster is strongest in the Mountmellick/Laois direction. Searching only Kildare-filed registers could return nothing even though the marriage exists. Test both counties before concluding the record is lost.

2. **Place — Carrickfergus as a Quaker birthplace is unverified.** The documented Ulster Friends meetings of that era sit around Lisburn, Lurgan, and Ballinderry rather than Carrickfergus itself. The birthplace may be a later family tradition, a parish of residence, or a confusion with another Antrim locality. Treat "Carrickfergus" as a lead, not a search boundary, and read the whole Ulster register series.
3. **Name — "Sarah Miller" and "Milhous" both need variant testing.** Miller is easily written Millar, Mellor, or Mills in 18th-century hands; Milhous appears as Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhous, Mellhouse, and Mulhouse. A search on the two file spellings alone will likely miss the entries.
4. **Relationship — William (b. 1738) may not be a son of this marriage.** He is recorded 17 years after the 1721 marriage with no siblings in the file. He could be a younger son of a large unrecorded family, a child of a second wife, or a grandson collapsed into the wrong generation. Prove his parentage from a meeting birth register or the 1770 probate before using him as the bridge back to Ireland.
5. **Date — the recorded dates are mixed in precision and in calendar style.** Thomas's death is a bare year (1770) while Sarah's is exact (26 Aug 1775), which suggests two different underlying sources. Also, 14 Mar 1698/9 is Old Style: under the old calendar the year turned on 25 March, so a register may file the entry in the "1698" book. Search 1765-1775 for the death and 1697-1701 for the birth.

Global caveats, stated once: nothing in this file is sourced, so every date below is a search window rather than a fixed point. FAN-club enforcement was waived because the supplied family data contains fewer than two recurring associates — no witnesses, sponsors, or neighbors are recorded anywhere. No destroyed-record series is being proposed: Irish Quaker books were never lodged in the Public Record Office of Ireland and escaped the 1922 Four Courts fire, and Chester County, Pennsylvania is not a burned-record jurisdiction. Colonial Pennsylvania had no civil vital registration (statewide registration begins 1906), so meeting registers and probate are the only vital evidence that can exist for 1738, 1770, and 1775.

4.2 Review of task 1: Timahoe Quaker Marriage Certificate, 1721 moderate

Locate the 1 April 1721 Religious Society of Friends marriage certificate for Thomas Milhous and Sarah Miller in the Irish monthly meeting registers covering Timahoe, since such certificates routinely name both fathers and dozens of witnessing kin.

- Correct target: an Irish Friends marriage certificate names both fathers and is the single document most likely to break this wall.
- The Kildare/Laois ambiguity is acknowledged but buried in step 3; it should drive the search, not follow it.
- Add Mills, Millar, and Mellor to the bride-surname variants — Miller is not a safe single spelling.
- Of the Genealogical Proof Standard, only partial analysis and correlation exists; the search is not reasonably exhaustive and nothing is cited.

Confidence: Moderate — the record type reliably names parents, but no entry has been seen and the covering meeting is unidentified.

4.3 Review of task 2: Dublin Quaker Library Holds the Originals moderate

Request a direct lookup of the 1721 Timahoe marriage and the Milhous family entries in the original Irish Quaker registers held by the Religious Society of Friends Historical Library in Dublin.

- Sound and necessary: this library, not any aggregator, is the repository of record for Irish

meeting books, including Ulster ones.

- The request should ask which meeting covered each Timahoe, and should not presume the Kildare one.
- Add an explicit ask for the Ulster registers covering the 1699 birth — otherwise this duplicates task 1 instead of extending it.
- Expect a fee and a wait; this satisfies reasonably exhaustive search but produces nothing citable until images arrive.

Confidence: Moderate — institutional survival of Irish Quaker books is well attested, but no Milhous entry has yet been confirmed to exist.

4.4 Review of task 10: Irish Quaker Material Through a Subscription Aggregator weak

Test whether any commercially indexed Irish Society of Friends collection carries the 1721 Timahoe marriage, giving a name-searchable route into Irish Quaker registers.

- Honest self-rating: Irish Quaker coverage on commercial platforms is patchy and the collection may simply not exist there.
- Any hit is a derivative index entry; it must be traced to the register volume before being treated as proof of parentage.
- Caution on the Miller search: Miller is common in Leinster, so a bare surname hit is not identification.
- Paywalled — rank it below the free catalog browse in task 1 unless a subscription already exists.

Confidence: Weak — cheap to run, but the target collection's existence on this platform is unverified.

4.5 Review of task 3: Ulster Quaker Birth Register for the 1698/1699 Birth weak

Find the Friends birth register covering Carrickfergus and the Antrim-area meetings for 14 March 1698/1699, since Quaker birth entries name both parents directly.

- Geographic warning the hypothesis understates: Carrickfergus is not a documented Quaker meeting seat; the Ulster meetings were Lisburn, Lurgan, and Ballinderry.
- The 200-km Antrim-to-Leinster jump before 1721 is a real identity risk — it may be two different Thomas Milhouses.
- Old Style dating means a 14 March 1698/9 entry can be filed under 1698; do not search a 1699-only window.
- Nothing of the Genealogical Proof Standard is satisfied for this birth: no exhaustive search, no citation, no conflict resolution.

Confidence: Weak — the birthplace itself is unsourced and may be family tradition rather than record-derived.

4.6 Review of task 18: Irish National Collections as the Backstop for Antrim insufficient

Search the National Archives of Ireland's holdings and finding aids for any Society of Friends or Carrickfergus-area record series covering 1690-1740.

- Correctly framed as discovery, and correctly rules out Griffith's Valuation and the Tithe Applotment Books as a century too late.

- Jurisdictional point the hypothesis raises but does not act on: Antrim material is likelier in Belfast or Dublin's Quaker library than in the national archives.
- Pre-1740 Antrim wills were overwhelmingly destroyed in 1922 — expect abstracts and indexes at best, not originals.
- Low expected yield for the parents question; keep it, but after task 1, task 2, and task 3.

Confidence: Insufficient — no specific surviving series for Milhous in Antrim before 1740 has been identified as existing.

4.7 Review of task 4: Certificate of Removal Received in Chester County moderate

Find the Quaker certificate of removal that a Chester County monthly meeting accepted for Thomas Milhous and family between 1721 and 1738.

- Strongest American-side idea in the set: the receiving minute names the issuing Irish meeting, which is exactly what task 1 and task 3 lack.
- Widen the window to 1718-1745 — the 1721 marriage and 1738 birth are both unsourced bookends.
- Name the candidate meetings serving the Pikeland area (Uwchlan and the adjoining Chester County meetings) rather than browsing all of them blindly.
- Paywalled platform; the free equivalent is task 5 and the originals route is task 16.

Confidence: Moderate — Quaker practice makes such a certificate likely, but the family's meeting is not yet identified and membership is assumed from circumstance.

4.8 Review of task 5: The Same Chester County Meeting Books on Microfilm moderate

Browse the microfilmed minute, birth, marriage and burial books of the Chester County monthly meetings covering Pikeland Township, 1715-1780.

- Correct and important: with no colonial civil registration in Pennsylvania, the meeting register is the only vital record that can exist for 1738, 1770, and 1775.
- Free alternative to task 4 and extends to the registers, not just the minutes — keep both, they are not redundant.
- Negative result is meaningful: absence may mean the family was never in membership, which would undercut the whole Quaker framing.
- Satisfies both reasonably exhaustive search and accurate citation, since the film and page become the citation.

Confidence: Moderate — high-value and cheap, but membership in a specific Chester County meeting remains an assumption.

4.9 Review of task 6: Published Quaker Abstracts for Pennsylvania moderate

Check William Wade Hinshaw's Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy for Milhous entries that would shortcut manual minute-book reading.

- This should run before task 4 and task 5, not after: it is free, indexed, and tells you which meeting to browse.
- Hinshaw is an abstract, not an original; a hit satisfies analysis and correlation but not accurate citation until the minute is retrieved.
- Hinshaw's Pennsylvania coverage is selective by meeting — absence is not proof the family

was not Quaker.

Confidence: Moderate — methodologically standard and very likely to produce a meeting name, but derivative.

4.10 Review of task 7: Chester County Probate Names the Heirs moderate

Locate the 1770 will or estate administration of Thomas Milhous of Pikeland Township in the Chester County probate series.

- Correct that Chester County is not a burned-record jurisdiction, so a blank index is itself evidence.
- Honest limitation to state plainly: probate builds the family downward and will not name Thomas's own parents.
- It does test the William relationship directly, which the whole Irish chain depends on — that is its real value.
- Search 1765-1780 for Thomas; the 1770 year is a bare, unsourced figure.

Confidence: Moderate — the record group survives well, but it addresses the parents question only indirectly.

4.11 Review of task 11: Pennsylvania Land Warrant Dates the Arrival weak

Search the Pennsylvania land warrant, survey, and patent registers for a Thomas Milhous tract in Pikeland Township, Chester County.

- Verdict lowered from Moderate to Weak: there is no evidence he held land, only an inference from a place-of-death tradition.
- Correct and useful point that Pennsylvania is a state-land province, so federal land patent searches would return nothing.
- Much of Pikeland was leased rather than warranted in this period, so a blank warrant index is not evidence of absence.
- Even if found, the warrant dates arrival; it will not name parents. Rank below the meeting and probate work.

Confidence: Weak — landholding is assumed, and the payoff is chronology rather than parentage.

4.12 Review of task 12: Tax Lists Bracket the Year of Arrival weak

Read the Chester County tax assessment and exoneration lists for the townships around Pikeland, 1720-1745, to find his first appearance as a ratepayer.

- Rightly begins with a coverage check — early Chester County list survival is uneven and should not be assumed.
- Township reorganization in the 1730s is a real trap; East and West Pikeland were later divisions, so read predecessor units too.
- Produces neighbors and an arrival window, not parents; this is supporting evidence only.
- A first appearance on a tax list proves taxable residence, not arrival date — a young or landless man can be absent for years.

Confidence: Weak — survival for the 1720s and 1730s is unverified and the inference from first listing to arrival is loose.

4.13 Review of task 8: Son William's Ohio Meeting Records Name His Origin moderate

Trace William Milhous (1738-1826) into the Belmont County, Ohio Quaker meeting records, where his certificate from Chester County would name his Pennsylvania meeting.

- Good reverse-chaining logic, and Belmont County was genuinely a major destination for Pennsylvania Friends after about 1800.
- Risk the hypothesis skips: a man aged over 60 may have moved with a son and never carried his own certificate.
- Identity caution — an 1826 Belmont County William Milhous could be a son or nephew of the same name; verify the 1738 birth year on the Ohio entry.
- Ohio statewide vital registration starts 1908, so the meeting record is correctly the only vital source for an 1826 death.

Confidence: Moderate — the migration pattern is typical, but William's identity and his link to Thomas are both unproven.

4.14 Review of task 13: Published Ohio Quaker Abstracts as the Shortcut moderate

Search Hinshaw's Ohio volumes for Milhous entries in the Belmont County meetings, as the indexed alternative to browsing the Ohio minute books.

- Hinshaw's Ohio coverage is his strongest, and certificates received are exactly the entry type that names a meeting of origin.
- Run this before task 8; it is minutes of work against an afternoon of image reading.
- The claim that Milhous is uncommon in these meetings is an assumption — check how many distinct Milhous men appear before matching one to 1738.
- Derivative abstract; the underlying minute must still be retrieved for an accurate citation.

Confidence: Moderate — likely to produce a meeting name quickly, but not itself proof.

4.15 Review of task 14: Nineteenth-Century County History Carries a Family Sketch

weak

Search the standard published history of Chester County, Pennsylvania for a Milhous family sketch naming the Irish emigrant ancestor.

- Source-of-the-data question matters more than the sketch itself: identifying the compiler tells you what was actually seen.
- Printed sketches of pre-1750 generations are frequently wrong; treat every name as a candidate for register verification.
- Serves resolution of conflicting evidence if the printed birthplace differs from Carrickfergus.

Confidence: Weak as proof, but high as a diagnostic of where the file's dates originated.

4.16 Review of task 19: Burial Grounds Confirm the Deaths weak

Search gravestone and burial-ground indexes for Thomas Milhous (died about 1770) and Sarah Milhous (died 1775) in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

- Correctly flags the central weakness: Friends of this period avoided marked stones, so 1770s Quaker graves are usually unmarked.
- Most online memorials for 18th-century Pennsylvania are tree-derived, not stone-derived —

they would recycle the same unsourced dates.

- Does not address the parents question at all; keep at low priority.
- Written meeting burial registers in task 5 remain the proper source for both deaths.

Confidence: Weak — cheap, but likely to return either nothing or a circular transcription of the file's own data.

4.17 Review of task 20: Y-DNA Ties the Pennsylvania Line to an Irish Milhous Family

insufficient

Test a documented male-line Milhous descendant's Y-DNA against surname-project participants to identify which Irish Milhous family Thomas belonged to.

- Correctly ranked last; no documentary record group has been touched yet.
- Y-DNA cannot name a father and, with a rare surname, may return no comparable Irish testers at all.
- A match is only interpretable if the tester's paper trail back to Thomas is itself documented — which it currently is not for anyone.
- Checking whether a project already exists is free; ordering a test is the expensive part and should wait.

Confidence: Insufficient — no test result exists and no documented male-line descendant has been identified.

4.18 Review of task 15: Irish County Heritage Centre Index as an Alternate Route weak

Test the county-by-county Irish church and civil index for Milhous and Miller entries in County Kildare and Queen's County (County Laois) around 1721, as a second repository for the same marriage.

- Added so the Irish marriage search does not dead-end if both FamilySearch and the commercial aggregator come up empty.
- County heritage centre indexes sometimes include non-conformist and Friends material that the large aggregators omit.
- Pay-per-view and index-only; any hit must be traced to the register named in task 1 or task 2.
- Pre-1800 coverage is thin for many Irish counties, so a blank result proves nothing about survival.

Confidence: Weak — a reasonable alternate repository, but early-18th-century coverage is uncertain.

4.19 Review of task 16: The Pennsylvania Originals at the Friends Historical Library

moderate

Request a staff lookup of the original Chester County monthly meeting minutes and registers for Milhous entries, 1715-1780, as the fallback when neither the index nor the microfilm yields a hit.

- Added because the Researcher named this repository inside two task steps but never gave it its own search path.
- It holds the originals for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, including the Chester County monthly meetings, with cataloged finding aids.
- Staff can confirm which meeting served Pikeland Township — the single fact on which task 4, task 5, and task 6 all depend.

- Involves a fee and a wait; run it after the free routes return nothing.

Confidence: Moderate — the originals certainly survive, but no Milhous entry has yet been shown to be in them.

4.20 Review of task 17: Chester County Deeds Trace the Pikeland Property weak

Search the recorded deed books of Chester County, Pennsylvania for Milhous conveyances, 1725-1790, to date the family's arrival and identify the heirs who took the land after Thomas's death.

- Added because the Researcher's land hypothesis covered only the proprietary warrants, missing the recorded county deeds entirely.
- Post-1770 deeds often recite a chain of heirs by name, which can prove the children where no will survives.
- A deed in which Sarah releases dower would independently corroborate the marriage and her survival into the 1770s.
- Chester County is not a burned-record jurisdiction, so the deed books for this period should survive.

Confidence: Weak as to parentage, Moderate as to family structure — it proves the generation below, not the one above.

4.21 Review of task 9: Free Global Name Triage Before Any Paid Search weak

Run a worldwide indexed name search on all Milhous variants for Ireland and Pennsylvania, 1690-1790, to see in minutes which collections already carry this family.

- Added as a cheap triage step the Researcher skipped: every other task assumes you already know which collections hold the surname.
- Indexed hits are derivative and must be traced to originals, but they quickly reveal the right jurisdictions and spellings.
- Low breakthrough value on its own — it will not name parents, it will only direct the deeper searches.
- Run this first; it costs nothing and may reorder every priority below it.

Confidence: Weak as evidence, but the cheapest useful first move in the whole plan.

5 Questions for you

What the research could not settle on its own: family papers, photographs, and what relatives remember.

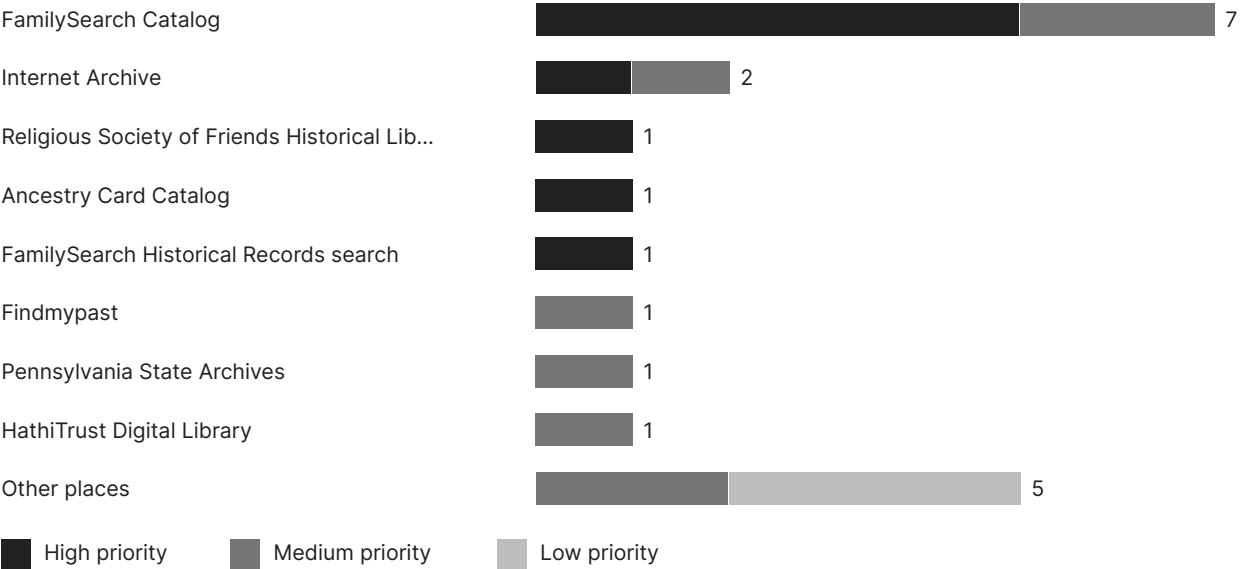
- Do you know the names of Thomas Milhous's (b. 1699 – d. 1770) parents, or the names of any of his aunts and uncles on either side? These extended-family relationships often reveal unknown grandparents through baptismal sponsor records, witness chains, and shared meeting neighborhoods in County Antrim or neighboring Ulster counties.
- Are there family Bibles, photographs, letters, or certificates kept by any living descendant of Thomas Milhous (b. 1699 – d. 1770) or Sarah Miller (b. ~1700 – d. 1775)? Family records sometimes preserve names, dates, and places that never made it into official registers, and photographs or postcards occasionally carry handwritten notes on the back identifying people or locations.

- Do you know the names of the witnesses who signed Thomas Milhous's (b. 1699 – d. 1770) and Sarah Miller's (b. ~1700 – d. 1775) 1721 marriage certificate at Timahoe, or any family story about who stood up for them at that wedding? Quaker marriage witnesses were typically close family members or trusted associates, and their names can point directly to Thomas's parents or siblings.
- Has any descendant of Thomas Milhous (b. 1699 – d. 1770) tested on AncestryDNA, 23andMe, MyHeritage, or FamilyTreeDNA, and if so what is the closest unidentified match in centiMorgans, and have you been able to figure out how that match relates to the Milhous or Miller lines?
- Do you have any family stories, oral history, or old letters describing how Thomas Milhous (b. 1699 – d. 1770) and Sarah Miller (b. ~1700 – d. 1775) came to Pennsylvania, what ship they may have sailed on, what port they left from, or whether they had relatives or friends already settled in Chester County when they arrived?
- Have you searched WikiTree, FamilySearch shared trees, or Geni for clusters of the surname Milhous (or variant spellings Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhous) in County Antrim, County Kildare, or Chester County, Pennsylvania between 1690 and 1780, and if so what other Milhous families did you find in those places and times?
- Are you connected to any local historical or genealogical society in Chester County, Pennsylvania, or to a Milhous or Miller surname mailing list or Facebook genealogy group, where other researchers may have already compiled Chester County probate or land records for this family?
- Which records have you already searched for Thomas Milhous (b. 1699 – d. 1770) and in which repositories or online databases, so I do not suggest duplicate work?
- Do you know whether Thomas Milhous (b. 1699 – d. 1770) left a will or estate inventory when he died in 1770 at Pikeland, and if so have you obtained a copy from the Chester County Register of Wills or Orphans' Court, or do you know the names of any heirs, executors, or bondsmen named in his probate file?
- Are there any first cousins, in-laws, or family friends of the Milhous or Miller families repeatedly mentioned across generations in family stories or old documents that you remember, particularly anyone who might have stayed in Ireland while Thomas emigrated or anyone who migrated to Pennsylvania around the same time?
- Do you know of any cemetery records, gravestone inscriptions, or burial locations for Thomas Milhous (b. 1699 – d. 1770), Sarah Miller (b. ~1700 – d. 1775), or William Milhous (b. 1738 – d. 1826), or has anyone in the family visited the Pikeland or Chester County burial grounds where they might be interred?

6 Recommended research

Each search worth making, in order of priority, with where to look, how to go about it, and what finding it would prove. The Analysis tab is where you check these off.

Where the research points



Each bar counts the searches the plan sends you to one place, darkest for the most urgent, so you can see where a single visit or login covers the most work.

1 Identify the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) marriage register series covering the Leinster meetings around Timahoe and find the 1 April 1721 marriage of Thomas Milhous and Sarah Miller, testing both the County Kildare and the Queen's County (County Laois) Timahoe.

HIGH PRIORITY

WHERE FamilySearch Catalog, the place-based catalog of microfilmed and digitized holdings for Ireland — FamilySearch

HOW

1. Open FamilySearch Catalog, type "Ireland, Kildare" in the Place field, submit, then click the "Church records" topic heading and note any title naming Friends, Quaker, or Society of Friends.
2. Repeat the Place field search with "Ireland, Queen's" and again with "Ireland, Laois" — the Quaker Timahoe may be the Laois one near Mountmellick, so do not treat a Kildare blank as a null result.
3. Open each Quaker marriage register found, click the camera icon, and read 1719-1723 (allowing for Old Style year-start on 25 March).
4. Read for the groom under Milhous, Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhous, Mellhouse, and for the bride under Miller, Millar, Mills, Mellor.
5. Transcribe the entire certificate: both fathers, the bride's family, the home meeting of each party, and every witness name, with volume and page for citation.
6. If no Quaker collection is cataloged for either county, go to the Dublin holding library in task 2 and the aggregator route in task 10; a FamilySearch blank does not mean the register is lost.

PROVES A 1721 marriage entry naming Thomas Milhous's father and mother, Sarah's father, each party's home meeting, and a witness list that becomes the associate cluster this file lacks entirely.

LINK <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

2 Obtain a reading-room lookup of the original Irish Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) registers for the 1 April 1721 marriage of Thomas Milhous and Sarah Miller, for all Milhous births 1650-1740, and for any certificate of removal to Pennsylvania 1721-1738.

HIGH PRIORITY

WHERE	Religious Society of Friends Historical Library, Quaker Meeting House, Dublin, Ireland — appointment-only reading room holding the original Irish meeting books for both Leinster and Ulster. No direct web link available.
HOW	1. Write to the library's reference service and ask first which monthly meeting's registers cover Timahoe, stating plainly that you do not know whether the Kildare or the Queen's County (County Laois) Timahoe is meant. 2. Request a search of that meeting's marriage register and certificates for Thomas Milhous and Sarah Miller, 1719-1723. 3. Request a search of the Ulster meeting birth registers (Lisburn, Lurgan, Ballinderry and any Antrim-area meeting) for a Thomas Milhous born 1697-1701. 4. Ask whether any certificate of removal to Pennsylvania was issued to Thomas Milhous and family between 1721 and 1740, and from which meeting. 5. Specify all surname variants (Milhous, Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhous, Mellhouse) and ask for images with volume and page so the result can be cited. 6. If the library cannot undertake lookups, the alternate routes are the commercial index in task 10 and the national catalog in task 18.
PROVES	A citable register entry giving Thomas Milhous's parents, his birth entry, his siblings, and the emigration certificate that bridges Ireland to Chester County.

3 **Locate the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) birth register series for County Antrim, Ireland, and read 1696-1702 for a Thomas Milhous born 14 March 1698/1699, treating Carrickfergus as one candidate locality among the Ulster meetings rather than the search boundary.**

HIGH PRIORITY

WHERE	FamilySearch Catalog, place-based catalog for County Antrim, Ireland — FamilySearch
HOW	1. Open FamilySearch Catalog, type "Ireland, Antrim" in the Place field, submit, and click the "Church records" topic heading. 2. Type "Ireland, Antrim, Carrickfergus" in the Place field as a separate search, then "Ireland, Antrim, Lisburn", to catch locality-level entries for the meetings that actually functioned in Ulster. 3. Open any Quaker birth register found, click the camera icon, and read 1696-1702 under all surname variants, remembering that under Old Style dating a March 1698/9 entry may sit in the 1698 section. 4. Where a father is named, record his full name, townland, and meeting, then search the same register for his other children to assemble the sibling group. 5. Do not substitute Church of Ireland registers as a fallback for this parish and period: most pre-1922 Church of Ireland registers were destroyed in the 1922 Four Courts fire in Dublin, so the Quaker series is the realistic target. 6. If the catalog lists no Antrim Quaker holdings, the Ulster books are most likely still in Dublin — pursue task 2, and use the catalog-level search in task 18.
PROVES	A birth entry naming Thomas Milhous's father and mother and their residence, plus a sibling list that can be cross-checked against the 1721 marriage witnesses.
LINK	https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog

4 Find the Chester County, Pennsylvania Quaker monthly meeting minute dated 1718-1745 recording receipt of a certificate of removal from Ireland for Thomas Milhous and his family, and note the Irish meeting named in it.

HIGH PRIORITY

WHERE	Ancestry Card Catalog, for the digitized Pennsylvania Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) meeting records — minutes, membership, and registers of births, marriages and burials — Ancestry
HOW	1. Open the Ancestry Card Catalog, type "Quaker" in the keyword box, set the Location filter in the left sidebar to Pennsylvania, and click the Quaker meeting records collection title in the results. 2. Search within that collection for Milhous with a date range of 1715-1780, then repeat for Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhous, and Mellhouse. 3. Open each image hit and read the surrounding minute pages for the certificate acceptance, the Friends appointed to visit, and any children named. 4. If the name search is empty, use the collection's browse option and read the 1718-1745 minutes of the Chester County meetings nearest Pikeland Township — Uwchlan is the leading candidate — page by page, since removal certificates are frequently unindexed. 5. Record the issuing Irish meeting exactly as written; that name is what you feed back into task 1, task 2, and task 3. 6. If nothing is found here, run the free image browse in task 5 and the originals lookup at the Friends Historical Library in task 16 before concluding the family was not in membership.
PROVES	A minute naming the Irish monthly meeting that issued Thomas Milhous's certificate, his arrival year, and the wife and children transferred with him.
LINK	https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/

5 Browse the microfilmed Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) monthly meeting books for Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1715-1780, for Milhous entries covering William's 1738 birth, Thomas's death about 1770, and Sarah's 1775 death.

HIGH PRIORITY

WHERE	FamilySearch Catalog, place-based catalog for Chester County, Pennsylvania — FamilySearch
HOW	1. Open FamilySearch Catalog, type "Pennsylvania, Chester" in the Place field, submit, and click the "Church records" topic heading. 2. Type "Pennsylvania, Chester, Pikeland" in the Place field as a separate search to catch locality-level entries, and note which monthly meeting served that township. 3. Open each Quaker meeting collection covering 1715-1780 and click the camera icon to view images. 4. Read the births register around June 1738, the burials register for 1765-1780 (the death years are unsourced, so do not search 1770 and 1775 alone), and the minutes for 1718-1745. 5. Record every other surname appearing beside Milhous in the minutes — these are the migration cohort and the associate cluster this file currently lacks. 6. If no Chester County Quaker films are cataloged or images are view-restricted, use the indexed route in task 4 and the originals lookup in task 16.
PROVES	Cited register entries proving William's birth and naming his parents, the burials of Thomas and Sarah, and any Ireland-born children missing from the file.
LINK	https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog

6 **Read the Pennsylvania and New Jersey volumes of William Wade Hinshaw's Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy for every Milhous entry in the Chester County, Pennsylvania monthly meetings, 1715-1790.**

HIGH PRIORITY

WHERE Internet Archive, the free digital library of scanned books — Internet Archive

HOW

1. Open Internet Archive, type "Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy Hinshaw" in the search box, and open the volume covering Pennsylvania and New Jersey meetings.
2. Use the in-book search box to search Milhous, then Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhouse, and Mellhouse.
3. For each hit, note the meeting name, the date, the entry type (certificate received or granted, birth, marriage, burial, disownment), and the page number.
4. Search Miller, Millar, and Mills within the same Chester County meeting sections for Sarah's family and possible in-laws.
5. Treat any abstract as a roadmap: carry the meeting name into task 5 and retrieve the underlying minute before entering anything as fact.
6. If no Milhous entry appears, Hinshaw's coverage of that meeting may be partial — fall back to the image browse in task 5, not to a conclusion that the family was not Quaker.

PROVES Abstracted entries giving the certificate of removal date, the children's births, and the burials of Thomas and Sarah, each with a meeting and page reference to retrieve in the original.

LINK <https://archive.org>

7 Find the Chester County, Pennsylvania Register of Wills probate file for Thomas Milhous of Pikeland Township, 1765-1780, and for Sarah Milhous, 1775-1782, and record every person named.

HIGH PRIORITY

WHERE	FamilySearch Catalog, place-based catalog for Chester County, Pennsylvania probate and court records — FamilySearch
HOW	1. Open FamilySearch Catalog, type "Pennsylvania, Chester" in the Place field, submit, and click the "Probate records" topic heading. 2. Open the probate index volume covering 1760-1785 first and look up Milhous and its variants; note the will book letter and page or the estate file number. 3. Click the camera icon, turn to the indexed page, and transcribe the full will or administration bond — widow, every child, executors, witnesses, and any Irish place named. 4. Return to the catalog results, open the "Court records" topic, and check the Orphans' Court series for guardianships involving Milhous minors, 1770-1785. 5. Compare the children named against William born 1738 — a will that omits him would be a serious conflict requiring resolution before any Irish work proceeds. 6. If no probate index entry exists in this window, the estate may have passed outside probate; move to the land warrant in task 11 and the deeds in task 17.
PROVES	A will or administration naming Sarah as widow and listing all children including William, plus executors and witnesses who form the family's Pikeland associate network.
LINK	https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog

8 Find the Belmont County, Ohio Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) monthly meeting entry that received William Milhous from a Pennsylvania meeting, together with his burial entry of 24 January 1826.

HIGH PRIORITY

WHERE FamilySearch Catalog, place-based catalog for Belmont County, Ohio — FamilySearch

HOW

1. Open FamilySearch Catalog, type "Ohio, Belmont" in the Place field, and submit.
2. Click the "Church records" topic heading and open each Religious Society of Friends collection covering roughly 1795-1835.
3. Click the camera icon and read the minutes for certificates received under all Milhous variants, recording the issuing meeting named in each entry.
4. Read the burials register for 1824-1828 and the marriage and birth registers for William's wife and children, and check any stated age against a 1738 birth to rule out a same-name son or nephew.
5. Carry the issuing Pennsylvania meeting name straight into task 5 so the correct Chester County minute books are browsed rather than all of them.
6. If no Belmont County Quaker films are cataloged, use the published Ohio abstracts in task 13.

PROVES A minute naming the exact Chester County monthly meeting the Milhous family belonged to, plus William's Ohio burial entry and his own family group.

LINK <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

9 **Run an indexed historical-records name search on Milhous and its variants for Ireland and for Pennsylvania, 1690-1790, to identify which collections already carry this family before any paid or on-site work.**

HIGH PRIORITY

WHERE	FamilySearch Historical Records search, the free indexed record search with Name, Place and Date filters — FamilySearch
HOW	1. Open FamilySearch Historical Records search, enter Thomas in the First Names field and Milhous in the Last Names field, set Place to Ireland and the date range to 1690-1745, and submit. 2. Repeat with Place set to Pennsylvania, United States and the date range 1715-1790. 3. Repeat both searches for Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhous, and Mellhouse, and run the surname alone with no forename to catch siblings and a possible father. 4. Search Sarah with the surnames Miller, Millar, and Mills in Ireland 1690-1725 and in Pennsylvania 1721-1782. 5. For every hit, open the record detail and write down the collection title named there — that collection title is what you take into the catalog browses in task 1, task 3, and task 5. 6. If the indexed search returns nothing for either country, the material is unindexed rather than absent, which confirms that the image browses and the Dublin and Swarthmore lookups are the necessary routes.
PROVES	A short list of named collections that actually contain the surname in the right places and years, used to prioritize every deeper search in this plan.
LINK	https://www.familysearch.org/search

10 Search the indexed Irish record sets for a Society of Friends (Quaker) marriage of Thomas Milhous and Sarah Miller in 1721, and for Milhous births in Ireland 1660-1740, across County Kildare and Queen's County (County Laois).

MEDIUM PRIORITY

WHERE	Findmypast, the subscription aggregator with substantial Irish church and parish holdings — Findmypast
HOW	1. Open Findmypast and use the A-to-Z record set list to check first whether any Irish Society of Friends or Quaker collection is carried at all; if none is, record that as the answer and stop. 2. If a collection exists, search it for Milhous, then Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhous, and Mellhouse, with the Country filter set to Ireland and a date range of 1690-1740. 3. Run a targeted search for Thomas Milhous with the year 1721 and the record type filter set to Marriage. 4. Search the bride as Miller, then Millar, Mills, and Mellor, in County Kildare and separately in County Laois, 1690-1730. 5. For any hit, note the cited source volume and treat the entry as a pointer only — the original register is the target of task 1 and task 2. 6. If nothing appears, fall back to the national catalog search in task 18 and the free global name search in task 9.
PROVES	Either an indexed 1721 marriage entry naming the source register, or a documented finding that no Irish Quaker collection is carried here, which justifies going straight to Dublin.
LINK	https://www.findmypast.com/search-world-records

11 Search the Pennsylvania proprietary and state Land Office records — warrant registers, survey books, patent indexes, and warrantee township maps — for a Thomas Milhous tract in Pikeland Township, Chester County, 1720-1775.

MEDIUM PRIORITY

WHERE Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, holder of the Land Office records of the Penn proprietary and the Commonwealth — PA State Archives

HOW

1. Open the Pennsylvania State Archives site and use the main search box to search "land warrant", then "warrantee township maps"; open the Land Office records described in the results.
2. Search the Chester County warrant registers for Milhous and its variants with no date limit; record any warrant date and acreage.
3. Open the warrantee township map for Pikeland Township, locate any Milhous tract, and write down every adjoining warrantee name shown.
4. Check the patent index for the same name to see when and to whom the tract was patented, which may identify the heir who took it after about 1770.
5. If the online search returns nothing, use the archives' reference request form to ask staff whether a Milhous warrant exists for Chester County under any spelling — remember that much Pikeland land was leased, so absence is not proof of non-residence.
6. If no warrant exists, he may have bought an already-patented tract: pursue the recorded deeds in task 17 and the tax lists in task 12.

PROVES A dated warrant or survey bracketing when Thomas Milhous established himself in Pikeland Township, plus adjoining landowners to test as fellow Irish Quaker emigrants.

LINK <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/>

12 Determine which Chester County, Pennsylvania tax assessment and exoneration lists survive for 1720-1750, then read the Pikeland and neighboring township lists for the first appearance of Thomas Milhous.

MEDIUM PRIORITY

- WHERE** FamilySearch Catalog, place-based catalog for Chester County, Pennsylvania taxation records — FamilySearch
- HOW**
1. Open FamilySearch Catalog, type "Pennsylvania, Chester" in the Place field, submit, and click the "Taxation" topic heading to see exactly which years survive before planning any name search.
 2. Open the earliest surviving list covering the 1720s or 1730s and click the camera icon to view images.
 3. Read the Pikeland section of each surviving year in sequence and note the first year any Milhous variant appears.
 4. Because township lines shifted in the 1730s and Pikeland was later divided, read the adjoining townships for the same years before concluding he is absent.
 5. Record the surnames listed immediately before and after Milhous — assessors walked in geographic order, so these are literal neighbors.
 6. If no Chester County lists survive before 1750, arrival-dating falls to the removal certificate in task 4 and the warrant in task 11.
- PROVES** A dated first appearance as a Chester County ratepayer plus a neighbor list that can be tested against known Irish Quaker emigrant families.
- LINK** <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

13 Read the Ohio volumes of William Wade Hinshaw's Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy for every Milhous entry in the Belmont County, Ohio monthly meetings, 1795-1835.

MEDIUM PRIORITY

- WHERE** HathiTrust Digital Library, the academic full-text book repository — HathiTrust
- HOW**
1. Open HathiTrust, type "Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy" in the catalog search box, and open the volumes covering Ohio meetings.
 2. Use the "Search in this text" box inside the reader for Milhous, then Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhouse, and Mellhouse.
 3. For every hit record the meeting, the date, the entry type, and especially the name of any meeting that granted or received the certificate.
 4. Count how many distinct Milhous men appear in these meetings before assigning any entry to the William born 1738.
 5. For limited-view volumes the search still reports page hits, which tells you whether the name appears at all before you seek a physical copy.
 6. If Milhous is absent from the Ohio volumes, the family may have left the Society of Friends before moving west — run the image browse in task 8 and the burial search in task 19.
- PROVES** An abstracted certificate entry naming the Chester County meeting of origin, which points task 5 at the correct minute book.
- LINK** <https://www.hathitrust.org>

14 Search digitized nineteenth-century histories of Chester County, Pennsylvania, including Futhey and Cope's History of Chester County, Pennsylvania, plus any standalone Milhous family history, for a sketch covering Thomas Milhous of Pikeland Township.

MEDIUM PRIORITY

- WHERE** Internet Archive, the free digital library of scanned books — Internet Archive
- HOW**
1. Open Internet Archive, type "History of Chester County Pennsylvania" in the search box, and open the Futhey and Cope volume.
 2. Use the in-book search box for Milhous, Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhous, and Pikeland.
 3. Transcribe any sketch found, noting every date, parent name, and Irish place, and flag each statement that conflicts with the current file.
 4. Run further Internet Archive searches on "Milhous genealogy", "Millhouse family", and "Milhous Quaker" to catch standalone compilations.
 5. Look specifically for a footnote or source note revealing whether the 14 March 1698/9 date came from a register, a family Bible, or tradition.
 6. Check every name found against the registers in task 1 and task 3 before entering it as fact; if nothing is in print, the register searches become the only route.
- PROVES** A printed sketch naming candidate parents, the Irish origin, and the arrival year, plus any source note that explains where the file's dates originated.
- LINK** <https://archive.org>

15 Search the county-indexed Irish church and civil record database for Milhous and Miller entries in County Kildare and Queen's County (County Laois) between 1690 and 1740, including any Society of Friends (Quaker) material indexed there.

MEDIUM PRIORITY

- WHERE** RootsIreland, the county heritage centre index of Irish church and civil records — RootsIreland
- HOW**
1. Open RootsIreland and check the county coverage listing for Kildare and for Laois to see the earliest year each centre has indexed before paying for any search.
 2. Search the surname Milhous with the County filter set to Kildare and a date range of 1690-1740; repeat for Millhouse, Milhouse, Millhous.
 3. Repeat the whole set of searches with the County filter set to Laois, since the Quaker Timahoe may be the Queen's County one.
 4. Search Miller, Millar, and Mills in both counties for the same period to locate the bride's family.
 5. For any hit, record the source register named in the index entry and request the original through task 2.
 6. If early-18th-century coverage does not exist for either county, treat the Dublin Quaker library in task 2 as the only remaining route.
- PROVES** An indexed Milhous or Miller entry in one of the two candidate counties that identifies which Timahoe and which meeting the 1721 marriage belongs to.
- LINK** <https://www.rootsireland.ie>

16 Obtain a staff lookup of the original Chester County, Pennsylvania monthly meeting minutes and registers, 1715-1780, for all Milhous entries, and establish which meeting served Pikeland Township.

MEDIUM PRIORITY

WHERE	Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania — the repository of record for the original Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Chester County monthly meeting books. No direct web link available.
HOW	1. Contact the library's reference service and ask first which monthly meeting had care of Friends living in Pikeland Township, Chester County, between 1720 and 1780. 2. Request a search of that meeting's minutes, 1718-1745, for a certificate of removal received from an Irish meeting for Thomas Milhous and family, naming all variant spellings. 3. Request a search of the same meeting's births register for William Milhous, June 1738, and its burials register for Thomas, 1765-1780, and Sarah, 1773-1780. 4. Ask for the names of all other Milhous individuals appearing in that meeting's books in the same period, to recover unrecorded children and siblings. 5. Request copies with the volume and page reference so each result can be cited properly. 6. If the library reports no Milhous entries at all, the family may not have been in membership — reassess the Quaker framing and prioritize the probate in task 7 and the deeds in task 17.
PROVES	Citable original minute and register entries naming the Irish meeting of origin, William's parents, and the burial dates of Thomas and Sarah.

17 Search the Chester County, Pennsylvania recorded deed books and their grantor and grantee indexes for Milhous conveyances in Pikeland Township, 1725-1790, including any heirs' partition after Thomas's death.

MEDIUM PRIORITY

- WHERE** FamilySearch Catalog, place-based catalog for Chester County, Pennsylvania land and property records — FamilySearch
- HOW**
1. Open FamilySearch Catalog, type "Pennsylvania, Chester" in the Place field, submit, and click the "Land and property" topic heading.
 2. Open the grantor and grantee index volumes covering 1725-1790 and look up Milhous and its variants in both.
 3. Click the camera icon, turn to each indexed deed book and page, and transcribe the parties, the township, the acreage, and any recital of how the grantor acquired the land.
 4. Note any deed in which a wife named Sarah releases dower, and any post-1770 conveyance by persons described as heirs of Thomas Milhous.
 5. Record the adjoining landowners named in each boundary description — these build the neighbor cluster the file lacks.
 6. If no Milhous deed appears, he likely held no freehold; the tax lists in task 12 and the meeting records in task 5 then carry the chronology.
- PROVES** A dated deed showing when Thomas Milhous acquired Pikeland land, a dower release naming Sarah, and a post-1770 conveyance naming his heirs.
- LINK** <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

18 Establish from the national catalog which surviving Society of Friends (Quaker), estate, or testamentary series name the surname Milhous in County Antrim, Ireland, 1690-1740, and which repository holds them.

LOW PRIORITY

- WHERE** National Archives of Ireland (NAI), Dublin — National Archives of Ireland
- HOW**
1. Open the National Archives of Ireland site and use the main search box to search "Society of Friends"; record each described collection and its date coverage.
 2. Search the surname Milhous, then Millhouse and Milhouse, with no date restriction.
 3. Search the place name Carrickfergus to see which pre-1800 series for that town are described at all.
 4. Expect no census or probate for this family's Irish years: the 1821-1851 census returns and most pre-1922 wills burned in 1922, so look for estate papers, testamentary abstracts, and Quaker deposits instead.
 5. Use the reader-services contact form to ask whether any Ulster Quaker meeting books are deposited there and, if not, which repository holds them.
 6. If nothing is described for Antrim, the books are most likely in the Dublin Quaker library — return to task 2.
- PROVES** A catalog-level answer about which repository holds surviving Ulster Quaker and Antrim material for 1690-1740, plus any direct Milhous name hits.
- LINK** <https://www.nationalarchives.ie>

19 Search indexed burial and gravestone records for Thomas Milhous (died about 1770) and Sarah Milhous (died 26 August 1775) in Chester County, Pennsylvania, including the Friends burial grounds near Pikeland Township.

LOW PRIORITY

WHERE Find A Grave, the indexed cemetery and gravestone database — Find A Grave

HOW

1. Open Find A Grave, enter the surname Milhous with the Location field set to Chester County, Pennsylvania and no dates; repeat for Millhouse, Milhouse, and Millhous.
2. Search Thomas with a death year of 1770 plus or minus five years, then Sarah with 1775 plus or minus five.
3. For every memorial, check whether a photograph of an actual stone is attached; a memorial with no photo may be copied from an online tree and is not evidence.
4. Use the cemetery browse on any matching Friends burial ground to list all Milhous interments there and note dates suggesting unrecorded children.
5. Repeat the surname search with the Location field set to Belmont County, Ohio for William's 1826 burial.
6. If nothing photographic is found — the likely outcome for unmarked Quaker graves — rely on the written burial registers in task 5 and the probate in task 7.

PROVES A photographed stone or a genuine transcription corroborating the death dates and supplying Sarah's missing death place, plus any adjacent family burials.

LINK <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/search>

20 Check whether a Milhous surname Y-DNA project already exists and whether any participant has documented Irish or Chester County, Pennsylvania ancestry, before considering a new test.

LOW PRIORITY

WHERE FamilyTreeDNA, the testing service that hosts surname-based Y-DNA projects — FamilyTreeDNA

HOW

1. Open FamilyTreeDNA and use the site search box to look for a surname project under Milhous, Millhouse, Milhouse, and Millhous.
2. Review any project's public results page for participants claiming Irish or Chester County, Pennsylvania origins.
3. Identify a living male who carries the surname in an unbroken male line from Thomas through William and ask whether he has already tested.
4. Do not order a test until that man's descent is documented by the registers and probate in task 5 and task 7 — an undocumented pedigree makes any match uninterpretable.
5. If the documentation holds, order a Y-DNA test at the highest marker level affordable and join the surname project.
6. If no project and no male-line descendant exist, close this route for now and continue the documentary work in task 1 through task 13.

PROVES Either an existing Milhous Y-DNA signature with comparable matches pointing to an Irish locality, or a clear finding that no comparison group exists yet.

LINK <https://www.familytreedna.com/my/y-dna>

7 Research calendar

Nothing searched yet. All 20 of the searches below are still to do — check them off on the Analysis tab as you make them and they are recorded here, with what you found or did not find.

8 Cautions

Names the AI used that could not be confirmed. Not proof of a mistake — but worth checking before you travel or pay for a record.

REPOSITORY NOT RECOGNIZED 1 name

- **Repository/Location**

Repository 'Repository/Location' is not on the known-real repository list. It may be a real archive we haven't catalogued, or it may be an AI-invented name. Verify it exists before planning a visit or paying for record requests.

PLACE NOT FOUND ON A MAP 8 names · 2 in your family file

2 of these are recorded in your own family file. The check reads the place together with the note in front of it, which is why it did not find them.

- **Belmont County, Ohio by 1826**
- **AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage**
- **Carrickfergus, Antrim County, Ireland**
for Thomas Milhous born
Your family file records this place, so there is nothing to check here.
- **Married Sarah Miller, Timahoe, County Kildare, Ireland**
- **Pikeland, Chester County, Pennsylvania**
for Thomas Milhous died
Your family file records this place, so there is nothing to check here.
- **Married Thomas Milhous, Timahoe, County Kildare, Ireland**
- **Chester Co**
for William Milhous born
- **Belmont Co**
for William Milhous died

The others was suggested by the research but could not be found on a modern map, and it is not in your own family file. Historical places often are not on today's maps, so this is not proof of a mistake — but check it exists before spending a day on it.

Prepared by MudCreek Bricks from your own family file. It is a research aid, not a source: every claim in it needs an original record before it belongs in your tree.

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