

**"A Fillbrunn Family History – Various Members of the Families
Fillbrunn, Filbrun, Filburn, et al. from 1570 to 1985"**

(Excerpt)

JP1(13)1 ROSCOE CURTISS FILBRUN (*)

b. Aug. 2, 1902, Montgomery Col, OH. m. Aug. 11, 1928, Indianapolis, IN., to Virginia L. McConnell b. Dec. 12, 1904, Oxford, IN. d/o Lon D. and Lola Louise (McConnell) (McConnell). *(My note: Could that double "McConnell" be an error?)*

Roscoe was born in the brick farm house that was his parents first home (on St. Rt. 49 at the north edge of Dayton, Ohio) which now sits in the midst of shopping centers. He was raised in the Church of the Brethren, but later in life chose to join the Grace Brethren Church.

Virginia, raised Presbyterian, joined the Church of the Brethren after their marriage and then the Grace Brethren Church. She graduated from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa and taught elementary school. In 1978 she and Roscoe celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have two children: Mary Lou and Roscoe Curtiss, Jr.

Roscoe, now retired, was a farmer all his life, mainly in beef and dairy. To increase his knowledge of farming techniques, he attended agricultural classes at Ohio State University. He farmed where his parents had, and sold for development in the early 1960s. He became quite active in the zoning for the Salem Mall at Dayton and the water and sewage systems that followed. There is a street named Filbrun Lane on land that was part of Roscoe's farm.

Apparently, Roscoe was as much a hard worker as his father had been. When President Roosevelt asked farmers to cut back on their wheat crop and ordered marketing cards to be used when selling wheat, Roscoe went on with his work, ignoring the government's intrusion into his private business and free enterprise. He grew his usual crop of wheat and placed it in storage. He joined with 35 or 40 farmers and hired an attorney to start proceedings in a suit against the government's policy. The attorney needed one farmer's name in which to place the suit. Roscoe's situation fit the case best and so his name was chosen. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court ruled that the farmers could do as they wished with their crops, as long as they did not get into interstate commerce. Roscoe shows his sense of pride when he looks you straight in the eye and says, "I never worked for another man in my life."

Roscoe and Virginia leave Ohio every year from November to April to enjoy their winters at North Fort Myers, FL. The rest of the year is spent at their home in Dayton, OH. They raise vegetables and flowers at both homes and also enjoy boating and fishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

JP1(13)11 MARY LOU FILBRUN SPURGEON b. May 22, 1931, Dayton, OH m. June 7, 1952, Montgomery Co., OH by Rev. Paul W. Kinsel to Walter A. Spurgeon b. Feb. 18, 1930, Detroit, MI. s/o Walter and Audrey (Brown) Spurgeon.

Mary teaches organ. Walter was business manager for the Dayton Board of Education and is now business manager for the Randolph Twp. Board of Education. They have three children: Sue Ann, Gerold and James.

JP1(13)12 ROSCOE CURTISS FILBRUN, JR. (Tommy) b. May 11, 1941, Dayton, OH. m. Feb. 9, 1963 to Rietta Faye Lewis (Faye) b. Apr. 12, 1942, Pleasant Hill, TN d/o William V. and Martha D. (Bryant) Lewis div. July, 1979. Roscoe m. second June 6, 1981, Montgomery Co., OH by Rev. William I. Brown to Dorothy Ann (Kocher) Norton b. Jan. 4, 1935, Wheeling, VA d/o Paul L. and Catherine V. (Barcus) Kocher.

Roscoe, Jr. (called Tommy) and Dorothy live in Dayton, OH in the farm house his father owned. He is an office clerk; Dorothy is a bookkeeper. And, yes, his son, John Curtiss Filbrun, is carrying on the good doctor's name of Curtiss. (#)

(*) The genealogical numbering system used is The Henry System, named after Reginald Buchanan Henry ("Genealogies of the Families of the Presidents"). "JP" stands for the family founder (Johann Peter Filbrun). ("1") indicates the first-born of "JP". "(13)" indicates the 13 child of "1". The final "1" indicates the first-born of the 13th child of the 1st child of the founder – JP, or Johann Peter's great grandson. (This is very useful in finding relationships. For instance, my father is JP216B – The 6th born son (B indicates he had a twin – "A") of the first born son of the second born son of JP (Johann Peter) – thus JP1 and JP2 were brothers, JPl(13) and JP21 were first cousins and JP1(13)1 (Roscoe) and JP216(B) (my father) were second cousins.

(#) An interesting item about the use of the name Custiss appears in the listing for Martin Filbrun (Roscoe's father) in the Fillbrunn History:

"Martin Filbrun (1866-1939) farmed all his life. Martin also ran a threshing machine and unfortunately one day had an accident while operating it, injuring his arm. The doctors on the case all agreed the arm would have to be cut off; however, one doctor, whose name was Curtiss, stepped forward to say that he believed the arm could be saved. Dr. Curtiss did manage to save the arm and also restore partial use of the fingers. Out of respect for this doctor, Martin and his wife gave their son the middle name of Curtiss."

This information was provided by William Filbrun of Kettering, OH:

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You may also enjoy going to www.filbrun.com, click on "Stories", then on "Joseph Filbrun's Really Large Family". Joseph was the oldest son of Johann Peter Fillbrunn (first Filbrun to come to the U.S.). His son, Martin, was the 13th of Joseph's 15 (yes, 15!) children and the father of Roscoe. The story of Joseph and his family, as told by one of his sons, makes very interesting (and amusing) reading.