

## **Interview with Walter C Robbins, Sr ID0005 – 18 Jan 2007 at his home**

Conducted by his son Walter C Robbins, Jr ID0001

Notes:

### Christopher Columbus Robbins ID0071 [CC]

The divorce from his wife Beatrice ID0602 almost ruined him – mostly emotionally

The farm he and his wife lived on in LaGrange County, Indiana was rented

They had an auction to sell the farm machinery, etc. The sale netted something like \$3500 – They deposited into the joint savings account.

CC bought a new Ford Model-T – put it in his wife's name because he didn't drive

Wife emptied the savings accounts, took off with the car and left CC.

According to Grandpa [Oscar C Robbins ID0014] CC's wife was no good when he married her – he referred to her as a whore.

After his divorce CC came to live with Oscar and his family to work as a farm hand to her his board but he didn't want to work.

Got a job as a caretaker of a park and lived in a little house in the park

Oscar, Walter Sr, Ina and Mary drove to LaGrange County to visit with CC and his wife. His wife was very nice to the kids. After breakfast CC and Oscar went to the fields to work and the wife and kids went to town. While the kids were off playing the wife was messing around with the guy at the grain elevator. [The town might have been Eden] Dad said there was a big grain elevator in the town they went to.

After the divorce CC's wife kept the last name of Robbins – it was Robbins when she died.

Dad agreed that CC probably did die in the [Hamilton County] Home.

CC didn't drive but Myron would drive CC & Dad to town. CC would get a shave and then they would go to the movies. CC liked westerns.

- Dad ID0005 was the favorite son of Oscar ID0014
  - Myron ID0016 didn't care much for farm work – he wanted to mess with his radios and listen to ballgames on the radio. He didn't like working with the horses but didn't mind the tractor
  - Milton ID0043 had not been born as yet
  - Dad liked farm work and was willing to do whatever his dad wanted done
- Keziah Robbins ID0070
  - Bedridden with a broken hip – When the family would go to visit the kids would go into the bedroom at Lizzie and Jim's house to see her. Dad couldn't remember for sure but didn't think she could even sit up in bed.

- Jim Mollenkopf ID0603
  - Very nice man. Liked the kids and would let them do pretty much what they wanted while visiting. They had a player piano that he let them play with.
  - Jim had bought a new car with a transmission and a brake. He never managed to master the stopping part. He would open both doors on the grainery and attempt to stop the car in the center of the building. He kept driving through the building but was never able to get the car stopped inside the building. It was mostly Lizzie that did the driving.
  
- Phillips daughters
  - Bernice ID\_\_\_\_\_ – Really nice
  - Dorothy ID\_\_\_\_\_
  - Kids used to go to their houses to visit. One son, Tommy ID\_\_\_\_\_, became a vet like his dad
  - Their dad was a veterinarian – was mean to his wife Alice – locked her in an upstairs room – one of her daughters found her there one time.
  
- Arthur Foulke ID0086
  - Prison during WW1 because his mother would not let him go to war because he was too religious [conscientious objector?] [**Need more Research here**]
  - Arthur's wife Ines ID0087 wanted to live high on the hog – wanted everything
  - Suicide: Used a shotgun and killed himself in the bathroom of his home
  - Dad thinks that it was his wife that found him
  - Grandpa Robbins [Oscar ID0014] went into the bathroom and he told dad that it was an awful mess. The blast had blown off his head
  - Between having been in prison, his mother losing her farm because of dirty dealing by Rob Ross, and the way his wife was, he just had too much on his mind so he committed suicide.
  - Dad REALLY like Uncle Arthur – he was a very good man – probably too good
  
- Baker – Sheriff ID\_\_\_\_\_
  - Cousin or something to Grandma Robbins [Grace ID0015]
  - He had one boy and 2 girls dad thinks
  - When he became sheriff he spent a lot of money fixing up his farm, buying new cars, etc.
  - He lost the next election but he ran the next time because he had ran out of money
  - His girls both married well – lawyers dad thinks.