

The Paulin(e) Family Reunion: Taking Family Research to the Family

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Handout

Before I began organizing the reunion in earnest, I set up some guidelines for myself and the event. These were to make sure I did this without causing undue stress and anxiety, and also which helped me in my decision making for the event.

- The reunion had to be affordable for those attending.
- I don't want the reunion to be overly-organized, there has to be opportunities for casual socialization, and the change to be a tourist
- I don't want to be a banker for the event
 - I don't want to have to be after people to pay for events in advance
 - I don't want to have to be responsible for paying deposits at venues
 - I don't want to have to deal with cancellations and the expense of that
- Ask for help – be open to asking people for help when needed
- Realize that not everyone is going to be as keen on the reunion or family in general, so be chill

Questions I had about the reunion – that I had to answer

- When would I hold the reunion?
- How would I get the message out to the family I don't know?
- What do you do at a reunion?
 - Activities where we socialize
 - Activities that relate to the family – sustain mutual interest
 - Activities that don't cost too much
 - Activities that are good for all age groups

Getting the word out:

- Facebook page was set up – “Amazing Paulin(e) Family” open to anyone who is interested. I set up a lot of posts – content – with family pictures, news of the reunion, etc. I also used it as a way to see what times would be good for the reunion, and types of events that might be of interest. That is how we decided on July as the time to hold it, as well as the dinner
- Web page – I used my personal blog and set up a page for the reunion on it. This page was accessible from the banner of the blog. I used it a lot like the Facebook page – posting information on the reunion, events, as well as providing information on hotels in Victoria, locations of events, and tourism information. I was careful to provide the names of all the children of Frederick Paulin and his wife Mary Cutler, including their

married names so that the page could be found with google, if people were googling one of their ancestors, etc. Keywords help in this as well – family name, reunion, Victoria, Oak Bay, Tod House.....

- Contacting the local newspapers. I wrote to the Victoria Times Colonist and the Oak Bay Gazette with my plans ahead of the reunion. It was only with the work of a cousin who had connections with the press that I was able to get our reunion covered, the week of the event.
- Posters were made and distributed, first to the Oak Bay Archives, and also to local genealogical societies.

The Events..... ultimately I planned a three-day event, with two events per day

Day one:

- Oak Bay Archives – visit to archives and viewing collections associated with the Paulin(e) family and the Tod House, where they lived
- Tour of Ross Bay Cemetery – visit to where most of the family is buried, and created a list of those interred there and the location of the graves, using a map provided by the Ross Bay Cemetery

Day two:

- Tour of the Legislature in Victoria – organized with the Speaker’s Office, and geared specifically to Frederick Pauline, who was a MLA and Speaker in the 1920s
- Dinner at the Spaghetti Factory in Downtown Victoria – they had the capacity for a large group, reasonable pricing, nice group menu, and did not ask for a deposit.

Day three:

- Photograph at the Tod House – permission obtained from the municipality, and the cooperation of the tenants. The professional photographer was found by one of my cousins, who knew her.
- Tea at the Empress – reserved several months in advance. Great time.

After the Reunion I set up a family web page on Wordpress “The Amazing Paulin(e) Family”

<https://paulin.family.blog/>

The page has a blog page where transcriptions and newspaper articles are posted for the family. There are also pages for the biographies and photos of the children of Frederick and Mary Paulin, images identified and not, art, and also a page with the transcribed diary of Frederick A Pauline.

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