

## Reunions – Lost Relatives, and Planning!

*TIP: Start your search with Google: name, possible town. It may be that easy!*

If you are planning a family reunion, and searching to find “everyone’s” addresses and names and relation to your other relatives . . . you will come across a few lost relatives. An uncle that might have moved to Alaska, or did he go to the Yukon? A grandfather’s sister who married a jeweller who came from Muncie Indiana. And was mom’s sister’s married name Ingilby or Inglebey, and where in Saskatchewan did that family move to?

Give yourself a full year to put on a reunion. Start by informing as many people in the family as is possible! If you are mailing information: write up a very brief sheet about the family history to make the invitation to the reunion more inviting! You’ve been doing some genealogy research and found your grandmother and her 5 children travelled across North America several times to visit her family in New York. And two uncles were in the insurance business together, one great- aunt was a teacher, another uncle on your father’s side was an actor, two relatives died in military service, etc. Perhaps several relatives sailed around North America more than once! Use these bits of information to put together a fun and informative “poster” with details of the reunion date and place! PLUS, details of all different ways to contact you!

Ask everyone you contact to pass on information about the reunion to their children and siblings and other relatives. In some families however, it may be more practical and workable for **you** to get everyone’s addresses and phone numbers and do all the contacting yourself! Families have their unique characteristics, don’t they?

Ask families to bring some of their more interesting, unusual or problematic photos – e.g., of unidentified elderly relatives. Or photocopies of photos, documents, or photos of military medals, of pets. Whatever would be fun and interesting to share with others.



Of course, you will need a Master family tree sheet to keep track of who is who and how are they related. There are commercial forms available, but with a long roll of white paper, coloured pencils, a ruler, and your family tree software for a guide, you should be able to write out your family tree yourself. Different sections of your tree could be in different colours – then make sure name tags are that colour: everyone can see at a glance where those relatives and in-laws belong! Oh, you’re a Gillespie (blue), I’m a Kuhn (red), she’s a Bunn (green), he’s a Terwilliger (orange), etc.

Make copies of photos of the oldest relatives for your family tree sheet and paste them on the sheet, to make the tree more interesting. We have photos of one set of grandparents from the late 1800s, which are charming – they look so young!

With a year to go, check relatives’ names and contact information through Google, Superpages or WhitePages, city directories online, and get clues from their closest relatives. If one lost relative has a relatively unusual surname, sometimes it can be useful to call anyone in that town with that particular surname – they’re bound to know of each other, or have an idea how to find your relative! With time and creativity, you’re bound to find lost relatives and have a great reunion!

Questions? Email: [Celia@RootsBasic.com](mailto:Celia@RootsBasic.com)