Connecting Faces Through Time

How to Use Related Faces for Identifying Unknown People in Photos!

Related Faces

BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER BY

CONNECTING FACES THROUGH TIME.

Digitizing Photos

Safely digitize Your Old Photos

Load of Options such as:

- Services such as Kodak Digital or Legacy Box

- Scanning Applications, there are many to choose from

- Home Photo Scanners such as Scan Snap, Kodak and Adesso

- Hire a Pro—ThePhotoManagers.com

THE PHOTO MANAGERS

Be careful with delicate old photos

Do some research on your photos and what type they are. Some old photos can be irreparably damaged when exposed to too much light.

There are some great websites you can google with loads of information about old photos. My favorite is the Northeast Document Conservation Center. Not only do they have information about photographs, but they offer valuable information on preserving many types of old documents. https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/5.-photographs/5.2-types-of-photographs
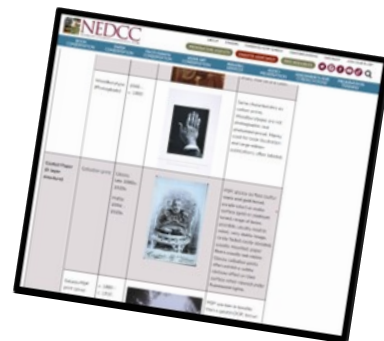
The Free Way I Digitize My Old Photos

Your cell phone can digitize your old photos with amazing quality! Most new cellphone offer:
- Multiple camera lenses for sharpness and clarity
- 12 to 15 Mega Pixels depending on the brand
- Digital Zoom up to 10x
- Many photo filters and styles to capture great images
- Photo, portrait
- Multiple lighting sensors and settings

Exposed to Desktop Skanner Light

2018

2022

Digitizing Tips

- Take multiple photos with different camera settings
- Be aware of your light source and direction
- ♦ Overhead lights can cause shadows and glare
- ♦ Soft, indirect natural light from a window to the side
- Try different background colors to create contrast
- Stand up you photo
- ♦ A cookbook or music stand works well to deflect shadow and glare
- ♦ A stand can free your hands
- Focus First— put a little room between you and your photo then use your camera's zoom to enlarge the faces and crop out unnecessary backdrops and scenery.
- Plug your phone into your computer and drag and drop your photos onto your computer
- Log into Related Faces from the browser on your phone and take photos from directly in the platform.

Facial Recognition

When utilizing any facial recognition platform to assist in your photo identification keep in mind the basics of how it works. Computer algorithms are trained to geometrically map faces by finding points of contrast on faces indicating the location and shape of features such as eyes, noses, and mouths. Measurements are made between the points. The more points the application is able to identify, the more measurements it can make, the more accurate the results.

Image from Facebook's DeepFace Project - GeeksforGeeks

When digitizing your photos, clarity and pixle count matter, so it is important to digitize them with a device that can give you great quality images. We recommend utilizing your smartphone, a photo scanner (overhead preferred) or a digital camera. We suggest avoiding desktop document scanners, especially those that say they scan in dots per inch. The resulting images make it difficult for facial recognition to return the best results.

AWS

What if you only have poorly digitized images? We have found that photo restoration can be a good option. From our tests, we have found that about half of the time, photo restoration is able to return the image to a point when facial recognition can find the correct person.

In simplified terms, restoration works by layering the data for the restored image on top of the data from the original image. These files can be confusing for facial recognition and you may find the facial recognition platform may reject them. Don't worry, there is a quick work-around. Simply open the image on your computer, make it as large as possible and then use your Snippet, or some sort of screen capture to create a new single layer image. The restored image should then work with facial recognition.
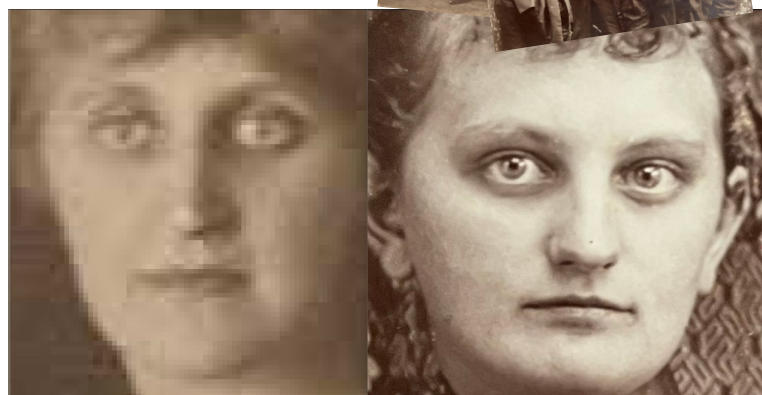
Sorting your photos

Knowing when a photo was taken can often help in identifying the people in your photo. To assist you in this effort, we recommend filliping your photos over and sorting them by their paper type.

Make stacks of the cardboard photos by plain, or embossed; also thin papers, postcard back papers, fancy edge papers, modern polaroid and so on. This method usually ends up doing a great job of sorting your photos into periods of 10 to 20 years.

Before you load your photos into the platform, find photo where you know who most or some of the people in the photo are, such as big family photos. Load those into Related Faces first. They are the target faces you are looking for in the other photos. Then start loading your photos with unknown people. We find that the majority of unknown faces are actually known family members people just didn't recognize.

Dating Photos

Here are a few sites you might find useful for dating your photos by paper type and the clothing worn by the people in the photos.

https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/1800s-fashion-19th-century

https://mymodernmet.com/womens-fashion-history/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/19th_centrury_in_fashion

https://legacytree.com/blog/womens-fashion-date-old-photos

https://familyhistorydaily.com/expert-help/19th-century-photo-types-a-breakdown-to-help-you-date-old-family-pictures/

https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/how-to-date-family-photographs/

https://everpresent.com/how-old-are-my-photos/

https://thephotomanagers.com/dating-identifying-old-family-photographs/

fortlewis.edu/finding_aids/images/M194/PostcardDating.htm

ancestralfindings.com/more-photo-identification-tips-hairstyles-of-the-19th century

Craig's Daguerreian Registry: craigcamera.com/dag

americanantiquarian.org/ambrotypes-inventory

americanantiquarian.org/tintypes-inventory

https://vintagedancer.com/1900s/history-titanic-hats-edwardian-era/
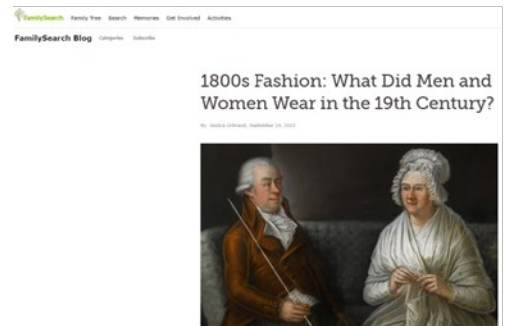
When you begin using Related Faces, the first thing we do is give you help! On your home page you will find our Top Tips, a comprehensive Help document on the header and an area for Frequently Asked Questions on the footer. In these documents are the keys to using Related Faces in the most effective way.
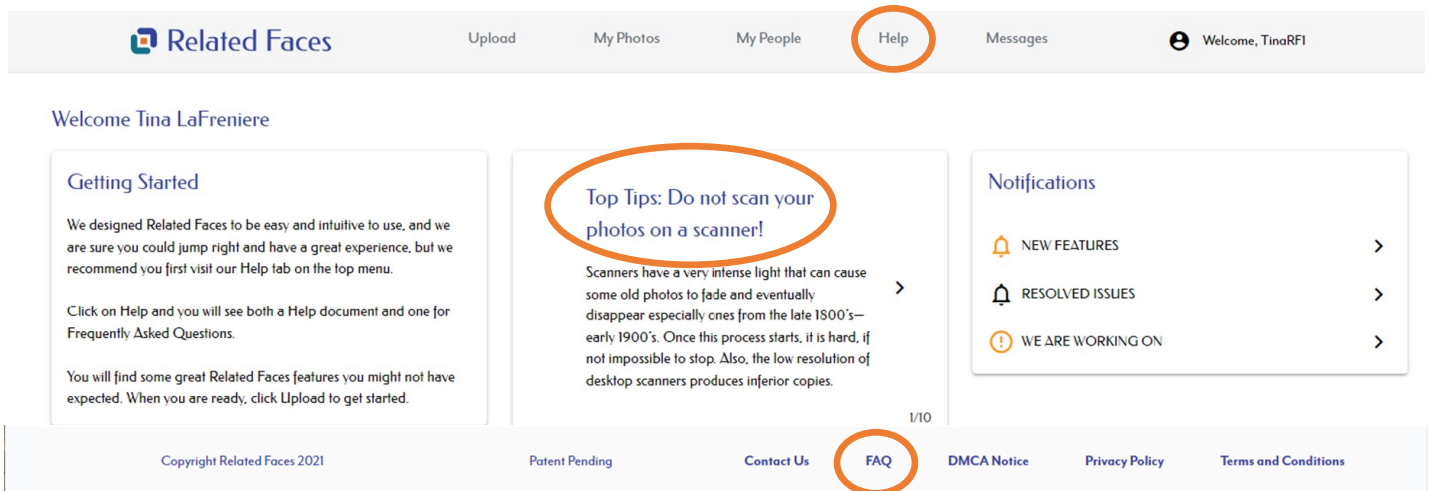
Uploading Photos

We have designed Related Faces to be easy to use. You can upload photos by dragging and dropping them, or by browsing. You can also log into Related Faces from your mobile device to take and load photos directly from your device.
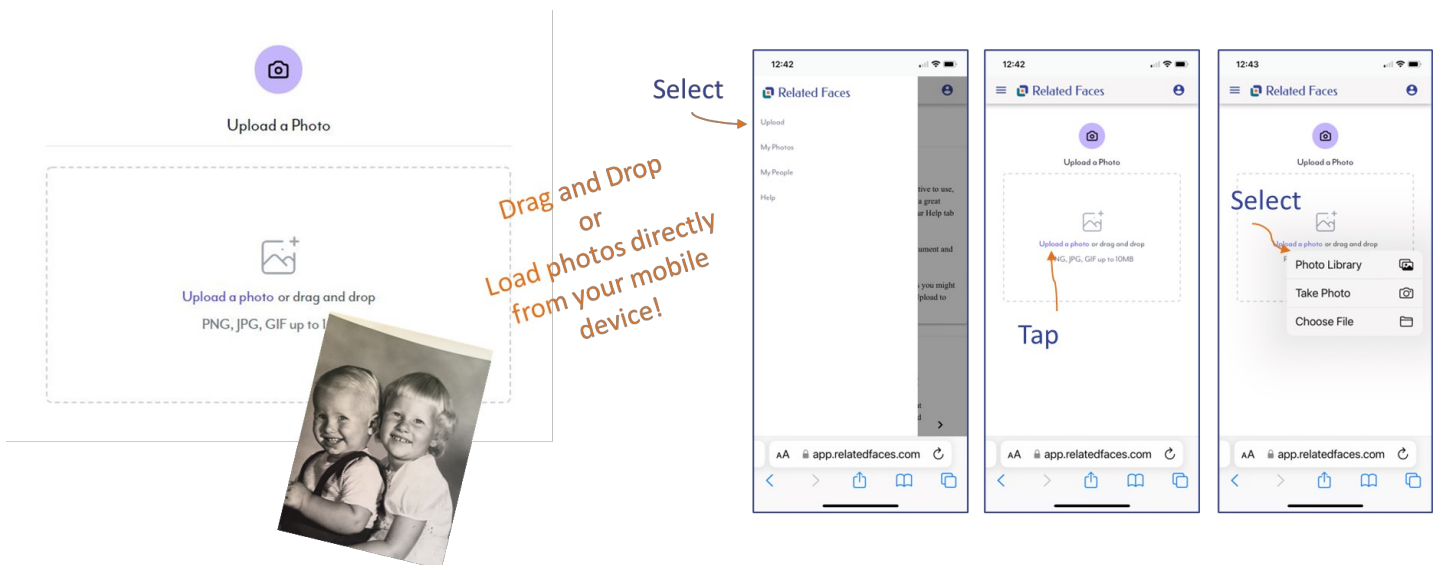
Enter any Known Data about Your Photo and People

Aside from naming your photo and people or giving your unknown people General Descriptors, no data is required for Related Faces to work, HOWEVER, any data you do add will enhance your results. We take into account the data you enter when calculating your Resemblance number. When your data, such as names, dates and places, match or are similar to those of another user, our patent pending processes can enhance the results we show you.

Entering data is very easy! Once you create a profile for a known person, you can recall that profile just by typing the first few letter of the name and selecting it from the menu. We also speed up entering place data by providing you a list of countries and the associated states/province/regions.

Keep living people's data private by selecting "No" to sharing.

Want to share more? Put any great stories or information in the Notes section.

Also, there is no need to rotate your photos before you load them, we will do that for you or give you a button incase they don't rotate automatically. You do, however, need to do any cropping before you load your photos.

You will name your photo and enter any known photo data.

We will auto rotate sideways photos.

Add data for your people.
Have no idea or making a guess?
Use a General Descriptor for unknown faces!

Assign either a Name or a General Descriptor!

Keep Living People's data private!

We Help you Organize

Keeping your photos and faces organized is paramount to your success. We give you the ability to create customizable photo boxes and albums. You can even colorize your boxes and albums. You may even want to colorize them to match your family tree.

We also want it to be easy for you to find the photos and faces you are focusing on. We give you the ability to search your photos, photo, boxes and profiles. You can reorder how your profiles are presented and we give you a clickable list of all of your people profiles, so you can jump right to them.

Where to Start

We recommend starting by loading a few photos where you **do** know who the people are in the photo. Most families have those big family photos where everyone knows which person is their grandparents, aunts or parents. These become your target people. We have learned that most unknown people are known people, but they just aren't recognized.

All profile data is editable, so if you learn more about your person later, or made a mistake, you can fix the profile. Inside of a profile, you will find all of the photos you assigned to be that person. Under Accepted Photos you will find any photos you received from making matches with others or the Library of Congress.

Click on Pairing to view the pairing your person has made. You can filter them by All, Your Own, Other Users or the Library of Congress. This allows you to focus your search.
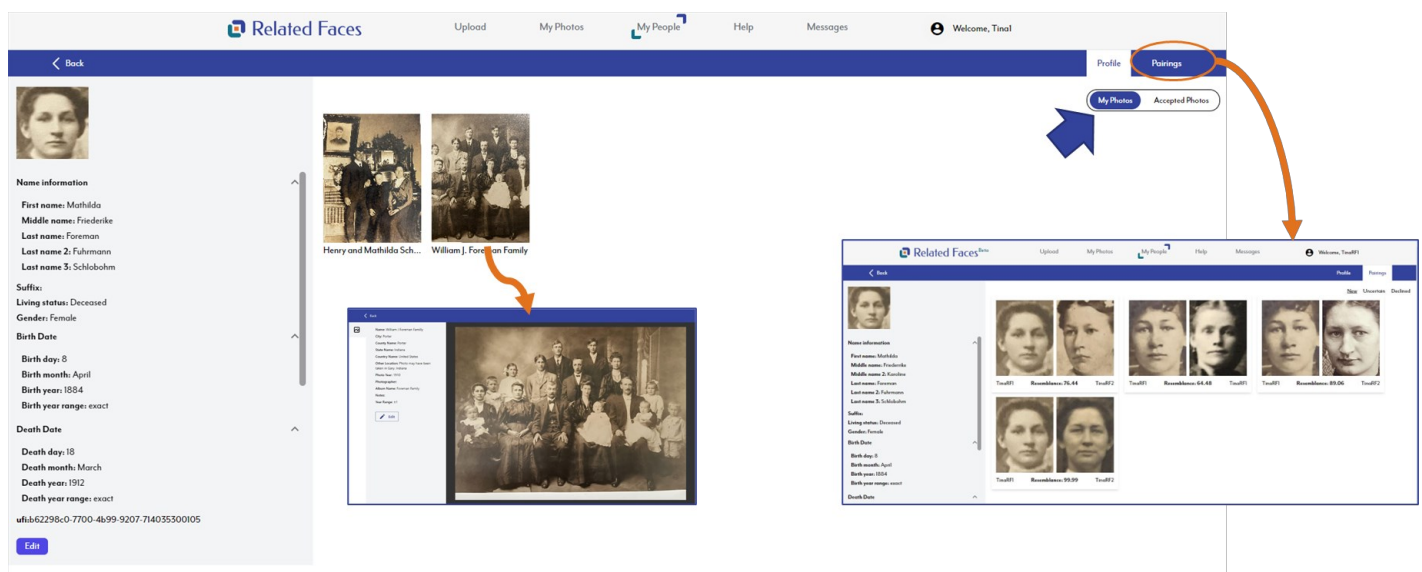
We get to work to _find faces similar to the one in your photo_ from our database including:

- **From your own photos**
- **From other's photos**
- **From the United States Library of Congress.**

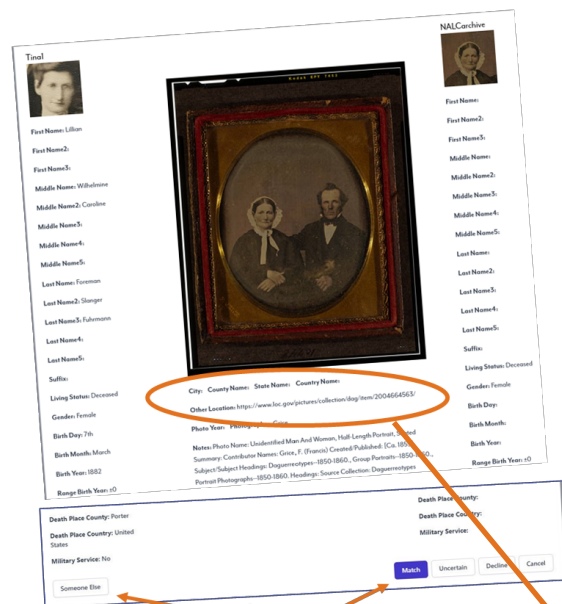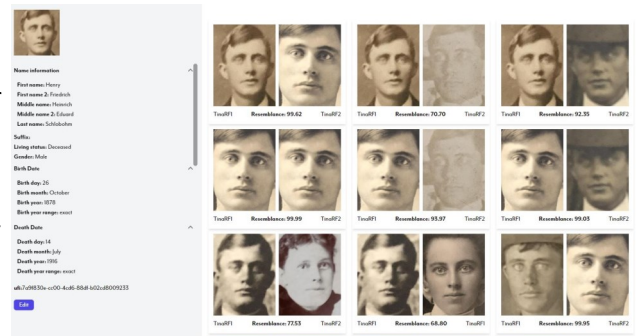Library of Congress Photo Pairings
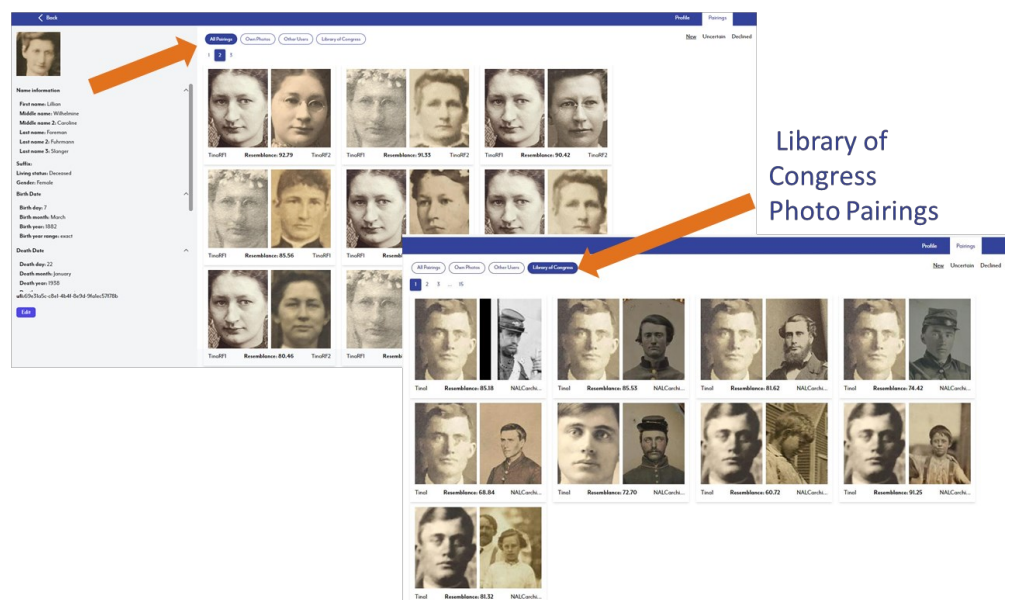
Viewing Pairing Details and Making Decisions

When you find a pairing you would like to investigate further, simply click on the pairing and a new page will open. We call this the Pairings Detail Page. This page will give you any data provided by another user or data provide by the Library of Congress.

This page also gives you the power to make decisions. If you are uncertain about the pairing and want to move it to a place separate from your other pairings, you can move it to the "Uncertain" page. If you are sure the paired person is not your person, you can either move it to the "Declined" page where you can later permanently remove the pairing, or you may know that the paired person is "Someone Else" that you know. In that case, you can click on the "Someone Else" button and either create a new profile for the person, or merge the photo with an existing profile.

For those faces that you know are a "Match" to your face, you can simply click the Merge button and a Merge flow will appear. On this page you can select any of the data the other Related Faces customer has provided for that person, and merge it into your own profile. When you click Merge, you will receive any data you selected as well as a copy of the photo and associated data. Selecting another's data will replace your own, so be cautious. The photo is then accessible from the "Accepted Photos" page found inside your person's profile as noted previously.

If you have a promising pairing with a photo from the U.S. Library of congress (https://loc.gov) and you want to learn more about the photo, simply click on the URL in the photo details area and we will take you to that photo's page at the LoC.

You Could:

- **Make Matches with Your Own Photos**
- **Make Matches with Other's Photos**
- **Make a Match with the US Library of Congress Photo**
- **Receive a New Photo**
- **Receive New Information About Your Photo and Person**
- **Make a New Connection**
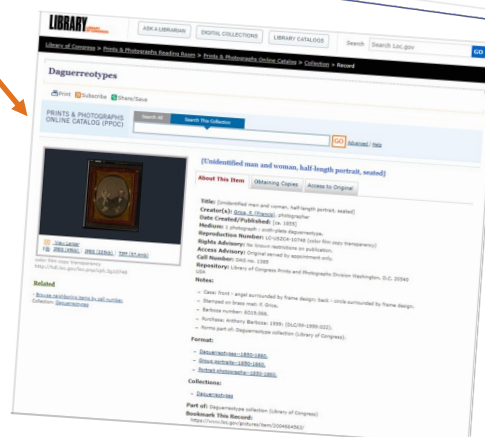
Choose

Fixing Mistakes

As you start to analyze your pairings and resemblance numbers, you may find that you have made a mistake, or you learn new information about your people- no problem! Related Faces has built in ways for you to fix that!

To edit the data for a person, enter their profile and click edit. To edit data for a photo, just click on the photo and a photo details page will open up. Just click the edit button there. If you have accepted a photo from another user, you can edit that data also, and your edit will NOT affect the data in the other customer's account.

What if you incorrectly identified a person? Just click on the little head and shoulders icon to display the people page, and you can reassign people to the correct profile or create a new profile if you don't have a profile for that person already.

Edit

Assign a face to a new or different profile

How do I use the Resemblance Numbers to help me figure out who the people in my photos are?

Most of your pairing results will be pretty straight forward. The resemblance number will show you how similar the two faces in your pairing are. You will be the final judge if two faces are the same and our Resemblance Number is a tool to give you information you didn't have before.

TinaRF2   Resemblance: 95.50   TinaRF1

Just like any other genealogical search you must go with your knowledge of your family and photos and your own gut feelings.

So what do you do when you have many photos, and/or multiple people who look very similar?

Keeping straight which photo paired at a higher Resemblance than another photo can be a challenge, so we suggest you use a comparison grid. You will use this in much the same way you might use a timeline in a standard genealogical search. Using a grid will give you the opportunity to view results for multiple faces/people at the same time.

The following grid was created in Excel, but you could easily create a grid on a simple sheet of paper. You will want to line up the faces of the known people along one side of your page and then the unknown faces along another. In our example we have also shown how to compare faces when none of them have confirmed identities and then utilize those results in combination with results from the known to unknown to further confirm your findings.

In our example the green boxes are the results we selected to confirm our person's identity. The orange boxes indicate those two faces came from the same photo so they cannot be the same person. Grace's identity was determined by an understanding that the three photos of girls in white dresses were confirmation photos. Then research was done to determine when each girl was confirmed. After that, we researched the clothing styles and matched those styles to the clothing worn in the confirmation photos. Grace's clothing was consistent with that of the 1910's; she was confirmed in 1915.

Comparison Grid Known to Unknown

Unknown	Results (Known)	Grace (G)	Lillian 2 (Lil)	Lillian 1 (Lil)	Louisa2 (Lo)	Louisa 1 (Lo)	Mathilde 2 (M)	Mathilde 1 (M)
A	Mathilde	67.92		70.5			99.41	99.77
B	Lillian		99.35	99.88	77.11			91.18
C	Louisa	72.11		99.96	99.93	91.28		84.68
D	Grace	Assessing Dates, Clothing and Process of Elimination: Grace	85.94	93.76 (orange)				82.9
E	Lillian		99.5			80.58		
F	Mathilde		72.11			99.99		
G	Louisa				99.84		75.53	
H	Mathilde	78.28				82.11	99.92	
I	Lillian		98.44	98.71		90.42	80.46	
J	Lillian		99.82	99.6	91.53	80.24		87.51

Unknown to Unknown

Grace (Process of Elimination)	Lillian	Louisa	Lillian	Mathilde	Louisa	Mathilde	Lillian
	98.59			99.37		92.79	
93.02	99.22					99.78	
				99.93	79.58	98.63	87.15
			99.93				86.38
81.52	63.88		99.22		98.59		99.99
	95.6			99.97		99.99	97.02
81.52			93.02				74.69
98.94	99.82		99.99			90.84	99.98

Looking for Clues—Ask "What Fits?"

When you are trying to figure out who a person in a photo might be, be open to those things that are literally staring you in the face…

Genetics are a wonderful thing. The family traits we inherit can help you when you are trying to solve your photo mystery. Look at your eyes and the eyes of your family members. Are their eye shapes and features ones that you inherited? Also you nose and lips. Do you have ears that stick out a bit or are they tucked in close to your head? These are all clues you can look for in your photos.

Birth Order

1. Girl
2. Girl
3. Boy
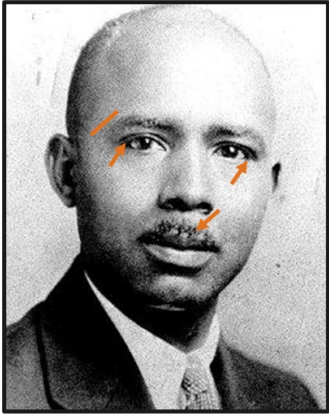
Pay close attention to who is in the photo. If it is a family, does the birth order and gender of the children match those of your family? Is there an age gap between children? If so, does your family have a child's death, or maybe a first wife died and there was a remarriage creating an age gap between children.

How the subjects are standing can also be a clue as to who they are. A couple might be a bride and groom. Does the age of the photo coincide with any known marriages in your family?

Dating a photo can often be a challenge. The biggest indicator of when the photo was taken in the style of clothing worn my the people in the photo. Yes, the material of the photo itself,

Identifying John means the others are his wife, Alzbeta, son, Martin and daughters Anna and Elizabeth

such as the photo paper can also be an indicator, but some photos, even back then, were reprinted, so the photo material might not be as old as the actual image. Becoming familiar with clothing styles can help you date a photo.

Does anyone in the photo make a facial recognition pairing with a known person? Identifying one person in a photo can quickly identify the other people in the photo simply by association.

Maybe a person in your photo is making pairings with people from the same family such as children, parents, grandparents, cousins and even nieces and nephews. These pairings can not only point you to the correct family line, but may even confirm the identity of an unknown person.

Misidentified and Unidentified Photos

Your family might not only have been negligent in identifying the people in your photos, but the ones they did identify may be wrong! Your photo may have been identified years after the photo was taken and by someone not contemporary to the photo being taken. The person making the identification may have known the ancestors when they were older, or may have heard stories which may bias the identification. Identification among siblings can also be difficult. Many times parents dressed the children in the same (hand-me-downs) or similar clothes which compounds the difficulty of identification. Just as with document searches, when data is supplied incorrectly, we must be open to misidentifications in our family photos.

Unidentified Bride and Group
Photo back says Emmie???

Unidentified Possible candidate for Emmie Schlobohm

Kate or Emmie?

Known Photo of both Emmie and Kate

Emmie

Kate

TinaRF1   Resemblance: 99.84   TinaRF2

TinaRF2   Resemblance: 95.50   TinaRF1

TinaRF2   Resemblance: 62.73   TinaRF2

Kate was married in 1896.
Emmie was confirmed in 1906.

We did find the family resemblance!

Related Faces

Group Photos Hold Many Possibilities

Large group photos can seem daunting, but don't shy away, they can be both the solution to your photo mysteries and be a source of new opportunities. You may be surprised how many solutions may lie in group photos. If the group is very large, use your camera to break it into smaller sections of around 10 people. We did that with these large groups.

Filling in the data for people in those large group photos can go faster than you think.

Once you build a profile for a known person, you can select that profile from a menu, which saves loads of time.

For people who are unknown, utilize the General Descriptor feature. Since General Descriptors are never shared, you can give your unknown people quick descriptions or just name them Unknown 1, Girl A, UK boy. Then indicate the person's gender and living status and move on to the next person.

General descriptor: Unknown girl seated center
Suffix:
Living status: Deceased
Gender: Female
Birth Date
Death Date
Birth Place
Death Place
Military service: Unknown

TinaRF3   Resemblance: 69.25   TinaRF3

TinaRF3   Resemblance: 66.05   TinaRF3

TinaRF3   Resemblance: 69.24   TinaRF3

TinaRF3   Resemblance: 63.43   TinaRF3

TinaRF3   Resemblance: 98.82   TinaRF3

TinaRF1   Resemblance: 99.84   TinaRF2

TinaRF1   Resemblance: 84.31   TinaRF1

TinaRF2   Resemblance: 95.50   TinaRF1

TinaRF1   Resemblance: 97.17   TinaRF1
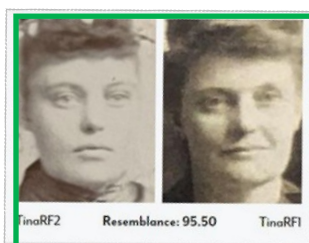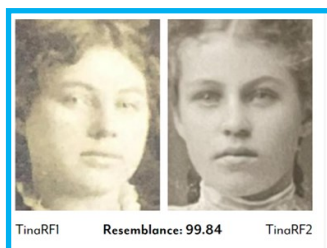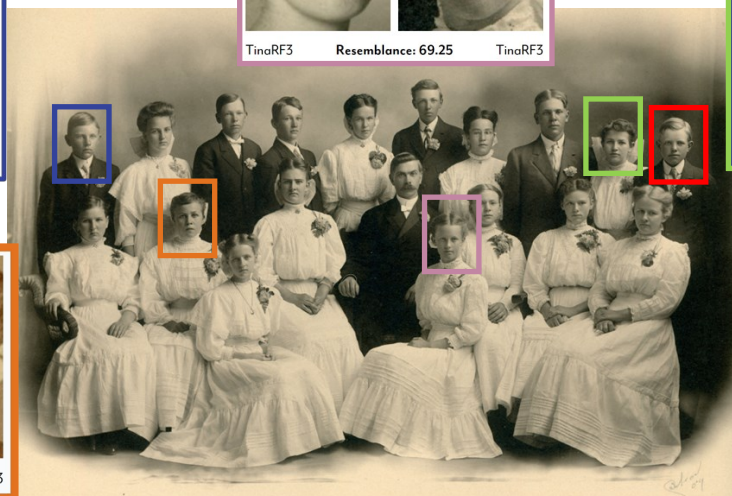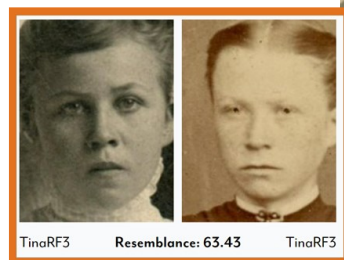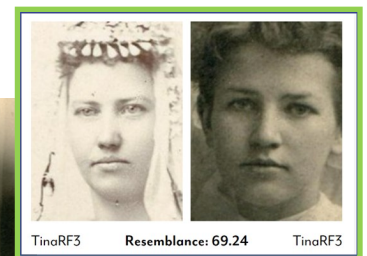
Non-identifications

Sometimes you may load a photo and you are hoping to get a pairing with a particular person, but no pairings are returned. This may lead you to wonder, why not?

Closer reexamination of the clothing styles and facial features is probably in order. Clothing styles can help you "rule out" people as well as "rule them in."

Those family traits can have you convinced you have the correct person, but look a bit closer, it could be a different ancestor.

You also may very well be correct, but the images you are working with just are not of a quality to give you the results you are looking for. We have found that sometimes re-digitizing images from the original and zooming in on the particular person you want to focus on, can have a different out come. When faces are tiny and/or blurry, it can negatively affect your results.

There are any number of thing that can affect the result, here's a couple you may not have thought of:

Photos that were hand colorized can be challenging, because no matter how good the artist was, it is unlikely they were able to perfectly trace the features of your person. Also some artist took license to correct facial features such as drooping lids or scars.

Photo restoration is a fantastic thing, but here too, the restored images may not be exactly as your person's features measured; if you will think back to the slides about facial recognition.

Edwardian

The eyebrows of these two women are not shaped like Eleonora's. Eleonora's eyes are round shaped where these women have a lid cutting across the top of the iris.

The clothing style of this woman does not fit the time when Laura lived. She died in 1881.

Other things that can skew results
- Hand Photo Colorization
- Photo Restoration
- Blurry Images
- Small size

Solve your photo mysteries with

Related Faces

Is that Grandma in the Unlabeled Photo?

| TinaRF1 | Resemblance: 84.03 | TinaRF2 | TinaRF1 | Resemblance: 99.33 | TinaRF2 |

Related Faces is an amazing new tool for genealogist, or anyone with unknown people in their old photos!

Did you or someone you know inherit wonderful old family photos, but your ancestors didn't bother to write the names of the people on the backs of the photos? They must be important people because your ancestors saved those photos. Don't sell them or throw them out! Related Faces' patented technology can help by identify unknown people in your photos.

- ♦ **Easy to Use State-of-the-art Technology.**
- ♦ **Build profiles for all of your people even if you do not know who they are.**
- ♦ **We show you similar faces in clear pairings with a Resemblance Number that quantifies the likeness.**
- ♦ **Make Pairings with photos from the U.S. Library of Congress.**
- ♦ **Organize your photos and people into colorized groupings.**
- ♦ **When you make a match, you could receive a new photo and information about your person.**
- ♦ **You can also communicate and collaborate with other users.**
- ♦ **Load Photos directly from your mobile device.**

They are more than photos, they are your family history!

RelatedFaces.com