

# 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

## Be careful with delicate old photos

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



be

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



## Digitizing Tips

I recommend practicing digitizing your photos. It's ok to play around with your cell phone or digital camera settings. Remember, that you can always delete what you don't like.

- ✦ 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.



Exposed to Desktop Scanner Light



## Other, non-free, ways to Safely digitize Your Old Photos

- Services such as Kodak Digital or Legacy Box
- Scanning Applications, there are many to choose from, but these use your phone too.
- Home Photo Scanners such as Scan Snap, Kodak and Adesso
- Hire a Pro

# 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. They are essentially turning the faces in your photo into a series of number. The more number that match, the more likely the two faces are the same person.



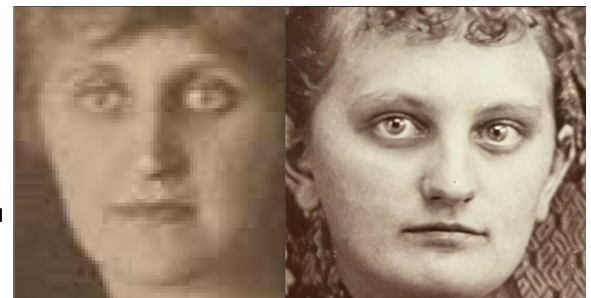
Image from Facebook's DeepFace Project - GeeksforGeeks

When digitizing your photos, clarity and pixel count matter, 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 where facial recognition can find the correct person.

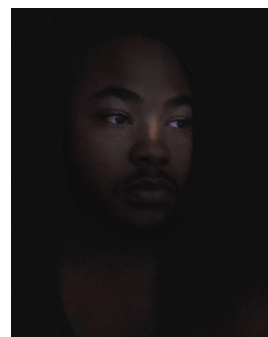


Just be aware that you may not be able to “directly” use the image you receive from restoration straight into any facial recognition program because of the way the data in the restored photo is saved. In simplified terms, restoration works by layering the data for the restored image on top of the data 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 workaround. Simply open the image on your computer, make it as large as possible and then use your Snippet tool, or some sort of screen capture, to create a new copy of the image. The new copy of the restored image should work with facial recognition.

Contrast is very important for facial recognition. Finding points of contrast in the photo is how the algorithm locates and maps the faces. When photos are faded, have faces in shadow or may be monotonal, you may find that photo enhancement programs may improve your digitized photo enough to use for facial recognition. First, you will want to make a copy of the original digitized photo. By making a copy, you never lose the original version, and any changes that you make, and don't like, can be easily discarded.



For dark photos that are monotonal and with little contrast, the brightening tool, can sometimes bring out the needed contrast. Also, obviously, utilize the contrast enhancement features offered in the software. They can improve your photo, especially with faded photos. We recommend paying attention to the eyes. Being able to distinguish the whites of the eyes from the irises, usually indicates the photo can be used for 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 flipping your photos over and sorting them by their paper type.

Make stacks of your cardboard photos (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. Be careful to keep your photos into family groupings when you do this! If you inherited your photos grouped together, we recommend leaving them in those groupings, until you are certain of the identities of your photo's subjects.



### Where to Start?

Before you load your photos into Related Faces, find photo where you know who most, or some, of the people in the photo are, such as big family photos. The people in these photos are the target faces you are looking for in the other photos.

After you have built profiles for most of your positively identified, or "known" people, then start loading your photos with unknown people. We find the majority of unknown faces are actually known family members who 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\\_century\\_in\\_fashion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/19th_century_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](http://fortlewis.edu/finding_aids/images/M194/PostcardDating.htm)

[ancestralfindings.com/more-photo-identification-tips-hairstyles-of-the-19th-century](http://ancestralfindings.com/more-photo-identification-tips-hairstyles-of-the-19th-century)

Craig's Daguerreian Registry: [craigcamera.com/dag](http://craigcamera.com/dag)

[americanantiquarian.org/ambrotypes-inventory](http://americanantiquarian.org/ambrotypes-inventory)

[americanantiquarian.org/tintypes-inventory](http://americanantiquarian.org/tintypes-inventory)

<https://vintagedancer.com/1900s/history-titanic-hats-edwardian-era/>

2. Salt Prints (Talbot's Process)



FamilySearch Blog

1800s Fashion: What Did Men and Women Wear in the 19th Century?



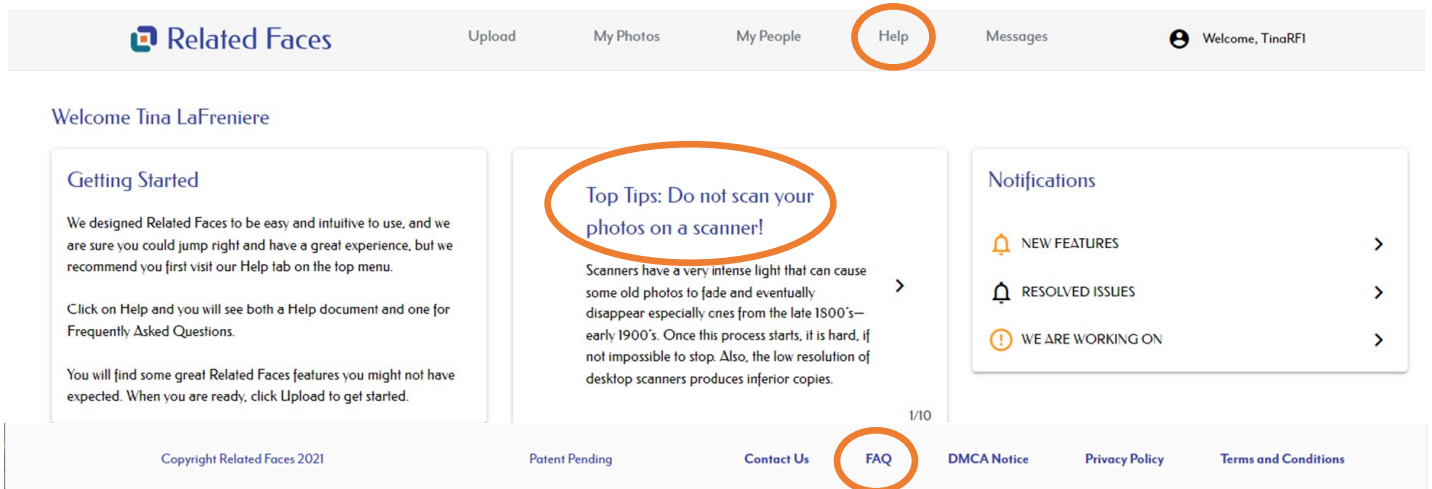
THE PHOTO MANAGERS

Dating and Identifying Your Old Family Photographs



# Related Faces

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 letters 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 in case they don't rotate automatically. You do, however, need to do any cropping before you load your photos.

The screenshot shows a 'Photo Preview' form with a photo of a group of people. The 'Photo Name' field is circled in orange. Below the photo, a message says 'Your photo sideways or upside down? It's being rotated automatically, please wait.' with a 'CLICK TO ROTATE' button also circled in orange. The form includes fields for Country, State / Region, City, Other Location Information, Photo Year, Year Range (set to 'exact'), Photographer / Studio, Upload To (set to 'general'), and a 'Create new Photobox' link. There is also a 'Notes' section.

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

We will auto rotate sideways photos.

The screenshot shows a 'Photobox Name' form with a text input field containing 'Unknown people box'. Below it is a 'Notes' section with a text area containing 'Photo found with others associated with the Schlobohm family.' There are 'Cancel' and 'Create Photobox' buttons at the bottom.

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**!



The screenshot shows the 'Enter Face Details' form for a new profile. It includes a 'General Descriptor' field with the text 'Might be Henry'. There are fields for First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Suffix, and Status (Living, Deceased, Unknown). A 'Share data for this living person with others' section has 'Yes' and 'No' buttons. An orange arrow points to the 'No' button.

Keep Living People's data private!

The screenshot shows the 'Enter Face Details' form for an existing profile. It includes a 'General Descriptor' field with the text 'Henry'. There are fields for First Name 2, Middle Name, Last Name, and Suffix. The 'Last Name' field contains 'Schlobohm'. There are '+ add' and '- remove' buttons next to the name fields.

The screenshot shows the 'Birth Date' and 'Death Date' form. It includes fields for Day, Month, and Year for both birth and death. There are 'Birth Place' and 'Death Place' fields. The 'Military' section has 'Yes', 'No', and 'Unknown' buttons. 'Next' and 'Submit' buttons are circled in orange at the bottom.

# 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.

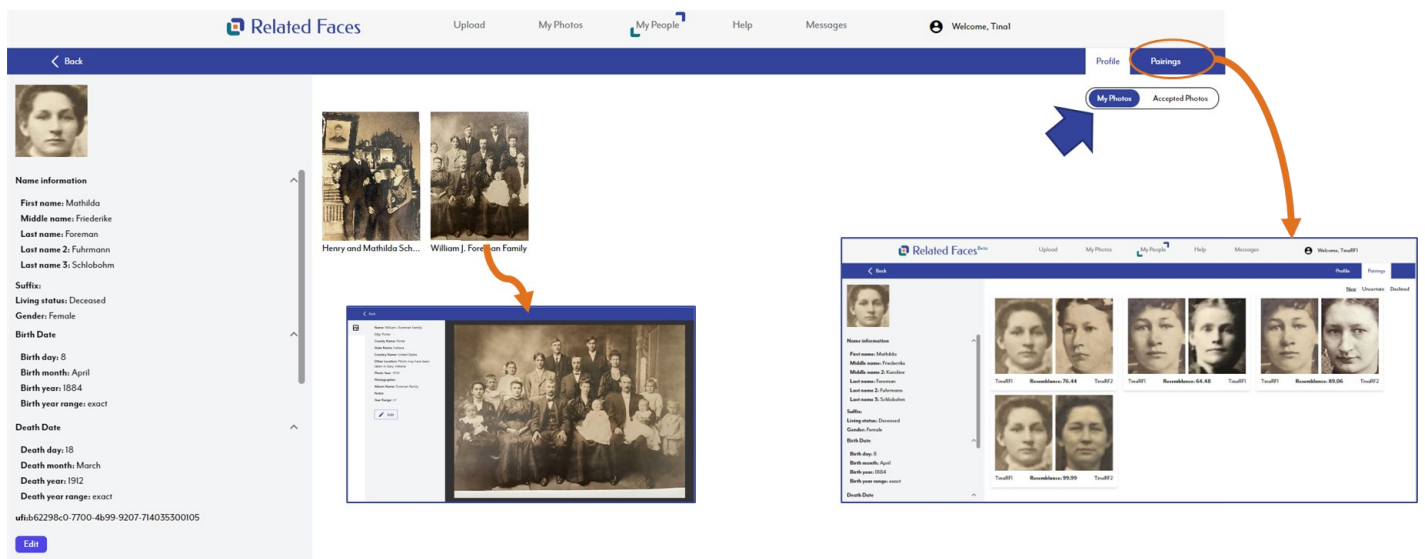


# Where to Start

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.

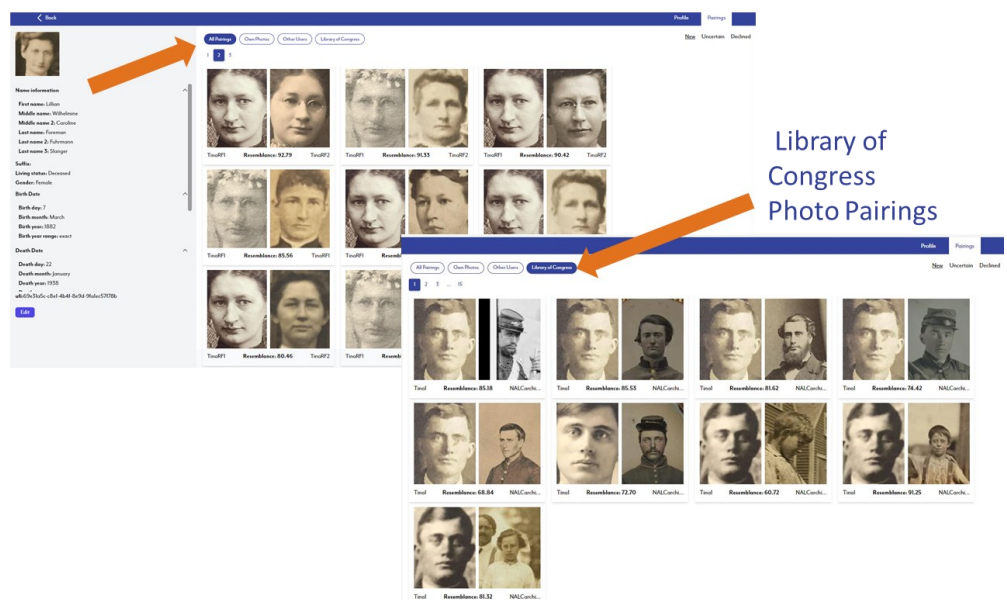
All profile data is editable, so if you learn more about your person later, or made a mistake, you can fix the profile. Inside of a profile, you will find all of the photos you assigned to be that person. Under Accepted Photos you will find any photos you received from making matches with others or the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





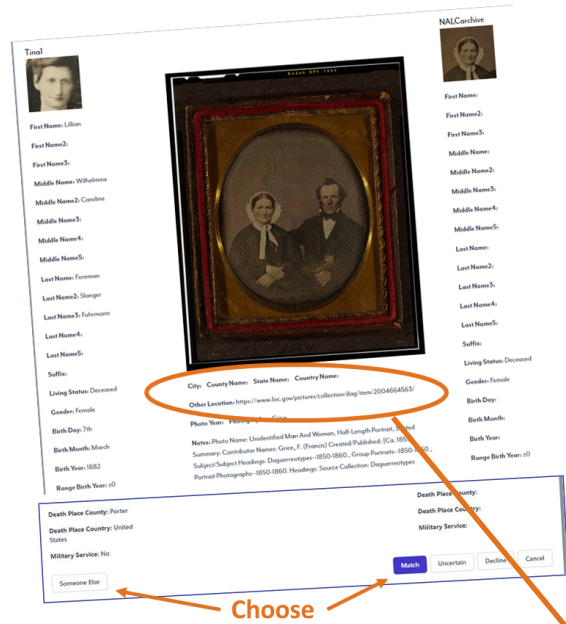
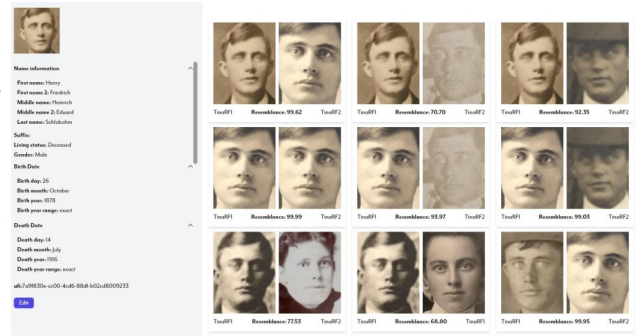
# Viewing Pairing Details and Making Decisions

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”. 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.

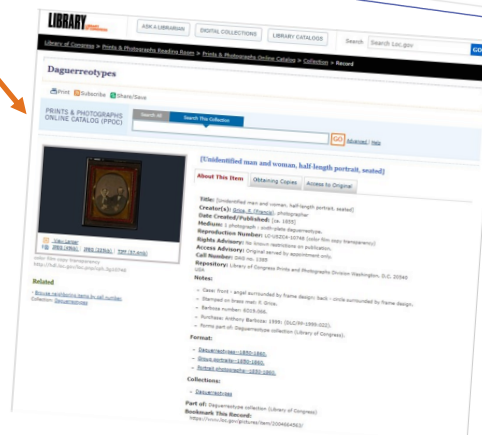
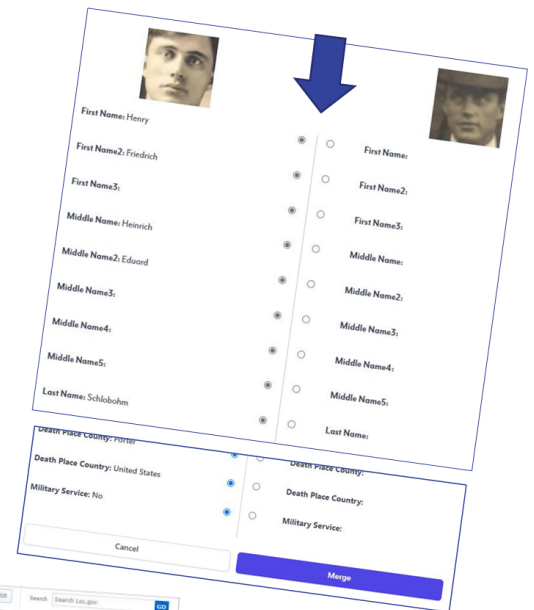
For those faces you know are a “Match” to your face, you can simply click the Merge button and a Merge flow will appear. On this page you can select any of the data the other Related Faces customer has provided for that person, and merge it into your own profile. When you click Merge, you will receive any data 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



# 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**

## Related Faces Resemblance Numbers

Relate Faces has created a Resemblance Number which we use as a scoring method to help you assess your pairings. Like a percentage, it is based on a scale, but in our case the highest score is 99.99. This score incorporates the raw facial recognition score derived from the mathematical formulas around the facial recognition, but it also includes our own proprietary algorithms around the data supplied for each photo and each identified face in the photo. The more similar the faces and the data, the higher the score, the less similar, the lower the score.



Most of your pairing results will be pretty straight forward. Sometimes, the score may reveal an unexpected pairing where you may need to do some additional research. These pairings are the ones that can bring a lot of delight and can help you add people to your tree or even break down walls. In every case, you will be the final judge if two faces are the same person, or maybe a family member. Our Resemblance Number is a tool to give you information you didn't have before.

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

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.

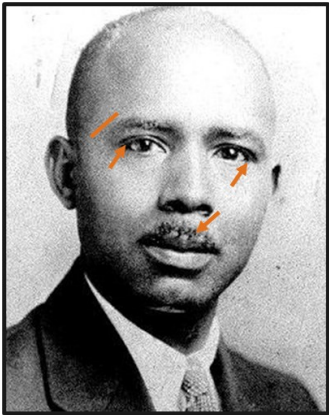
In our example the green boxes are the results we selected to confirm our person's identity. The orange boxes indicate those two faces came from the same photo so they cannot be the same person. Grace's identity was determined by an understanding that the three photos of girls in white dresses were confirmation 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									
Known		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Mathilde 1		99.77	91.18	84.68	82.9				75.53	99.92	87.51
Mathilde 2		99.41		91.28				99.99		80.46	
Louisa 1				99.93		80.58				90.42	80.24
Louisa 2		70.5	77.11	99.96				99.84	82.11		91.53
Lillian 1			99.88		93.76					98.71	99.6
Lillian 2		67.92	99.35	72.11	85.94	99.5	72.11			98.44	99.82
Grace					Assessing Dates, Clothing and Process of Elimination: Grace					78.28	
Results		Mathilde	Lillian	Louisa	Grace	Lillian	Mathilde	Louisa	Mathilde	Lillian	Lillian

# 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 is the style of clothing worn by 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 Groom  
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!

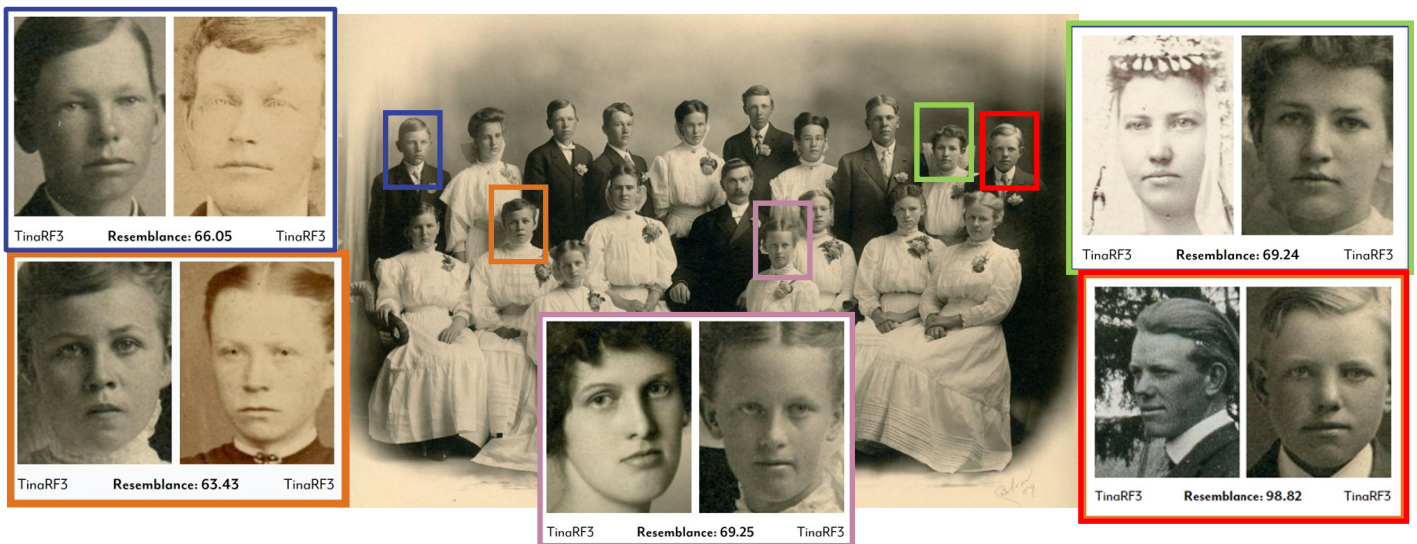
# Group Photos Hold Many Possibilities

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. Be careful to crop out partial faces. Facial recognition will identify a "half face" as a face, and you will end up with a profile of a "half face."

For many families, it is the group photos where everyone in the photo is known, or their identities can be more readily found. Often, family members/cousins, know which person in the group photo is their grandparent, so surveying relatives can help you make identifications. You may find that many copies of your group family photo exist amongst your second, third or even fourth cousins.

When a group photo holds your mysteries, be open to pairings that may be made with faces that are from the "wrong time frame." For example, a confirmation photo may contain young people who make pairings with adults or children, but the photos are from an earlier time. These young people could be descendants of your relatives, sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, or even grandchildren.

Finding pairings across time, can indicate family relationships. You may find that confirmation records may indicate more than one or two of your relatives were in the same confirmation class. These classes were often held only once every three years, so they may be large and have children from ages 13 to 18.



## Identification by Association

For many photos, receiving a Related Faces Resemblance Number and using that to make a positive identification of a single person in a photo can help you identify every other person in a photo. This is often true for wedding photos. If Related Faces identifies, for instance, the bride, then by association, the husband's identity is revealed. If the photo also contains the wedding party, church records may have recorded their names as well.

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

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.



## Other things that can skew results

- Hand Photo
- Colorization
- Photo Restoration
- Blurry Images
- Small size



# Is it Grandma in that unlabeled old family photo?

*Solve your photo mysteries with*

 Related Faces



Many people inherit wonderful old family photos, but their ancestors didn't bother to write the names of the people on the back of the photo. They must be important people because your ancestors saved those photos. Don't sell them or throw them out! Related Faces is a great tool for helping you find the same or similar face in your old photos.

With Related Faces you will build profiles for all of your people even if you do not know who they are, and organize your photos 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.

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

**SAVE 20%**



**Use Coupon Code: RFYEJXQ171** exp: 07/31/24

[Relatedfaces.com](https://relatedfaces.com)

