Don't Be Afraid of Technology

Knowing how to use it can help you identify unknown people in your photos!

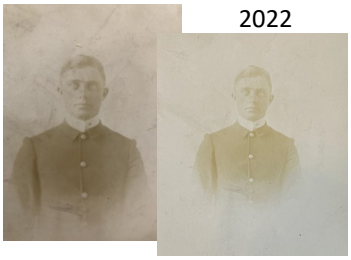
Related Faces

BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER BY CONNECTING FACES THROUGH TIME.

Digitizing Photos

Be careful with delicate old photos

Exposed to Desktop Skanner Light



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2018

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 50 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.

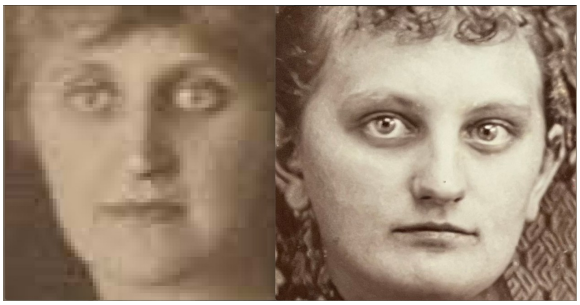
Facial Recognition

Image from Facebook's DeepFace Project - GeeksforGeeks

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 numbers matching, the more likely the two faces are the same person.

AWS

Over coming Challenges



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.

EyeEm

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.

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 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 are a couple of quick work-arounds. First, see if the photo is saved as a TIFF. If it is, simply save it as a JPG, JPEG or a PNG. If changing the file type doesn't work then 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. Save it as a JPG, JPEG or PNG. The new copy of the restored image should work with facial recognition.

Over coming Challenges Continued...

Photos that were hand colorize can also present a challenge for facial recognition. Even the best colorization artist may not follow the lines of a persons face exactly; it's just human error.

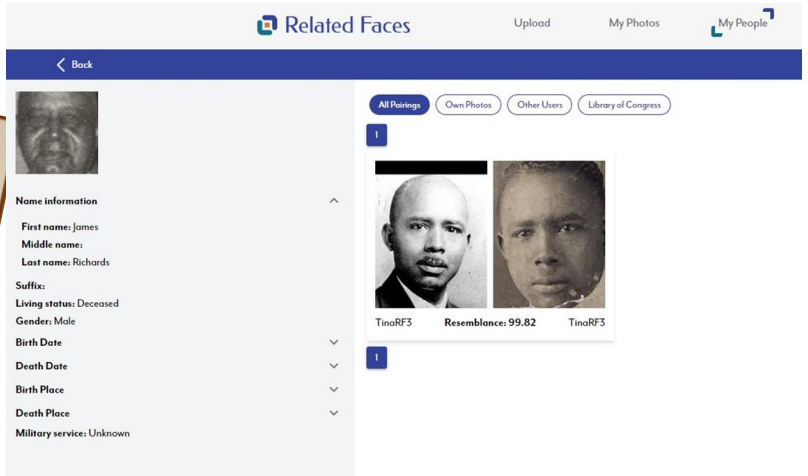
In some cases artist may take license to purposely deviate from an original photo to enhance the beauty of a person, perhaps to correct the affects of a stroke or minimize a facial scar. These deviations from our relatives true features will likely skew the result from facial mapping and that can lead to either misidentifications or no results at all.

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? You 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, remember you have easy to use photo tools at your fingertips built into your computer. In addition be aware of tiny and/or blurry faces as these can negatively affect your results.

Everyday, facial recognition is improving. Developers are improving the code and with artificial intelligence continuously educating the models, the outcomes can be quite amazing.

People from all genetic backgrounds are utilizing the tool with great success. As long as a photo is clear and has decent contrast, the results should be very good. Even when dealing with twins, we can expect, maybe not perfect, but pretty good results.

Thank you Denise Griggs author of Glass Tree Books and Andre Kerns, NGS board member and Family search blogger.



https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/andre-kearns

Related Faces Presents Clear Pairing

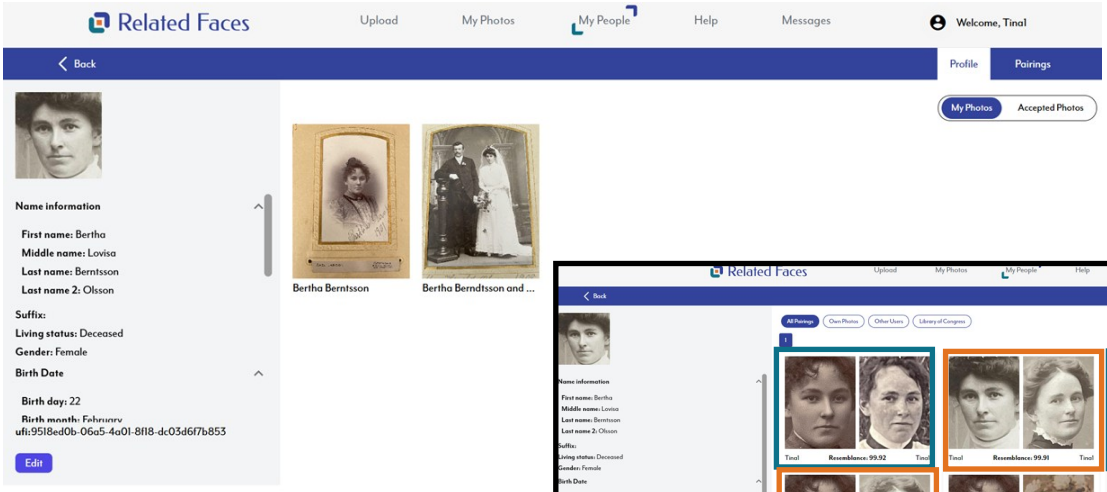
Every photo and face you entered into Related Faces will be named in some fashion. You may name your people with their proper name and create a new profile, added the person to an existing profile you previously created for that person , or if they are unknown, you label that person with a General Descriptor instead of a name.

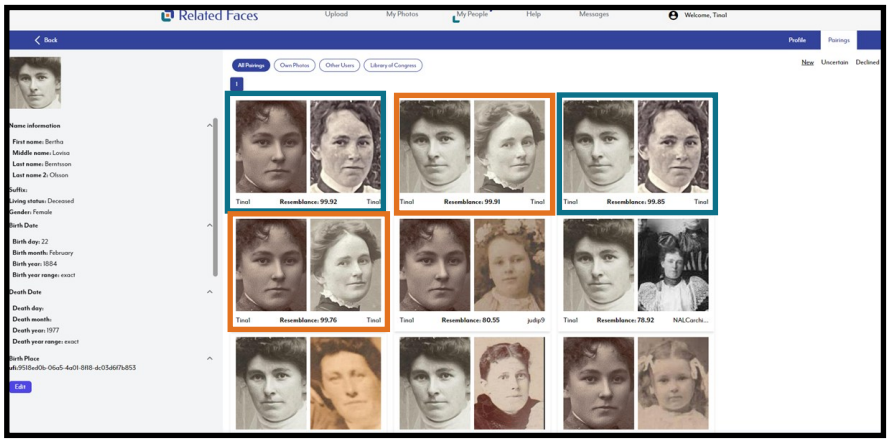
Aside from naming your photo and people, or giving your unknown people General Descriptors, no data is required for Related Faces to work, HOWEVER, any data you do add will enhance your results. We take into account the data you enter when calculating the Resemblance numbers. When your data, such as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

When your people make pairings, we show them to you in clear side by side comparisons with the pairing Resemblance score below the faces, so you can judge if you believe the paired person is indeed your target person.

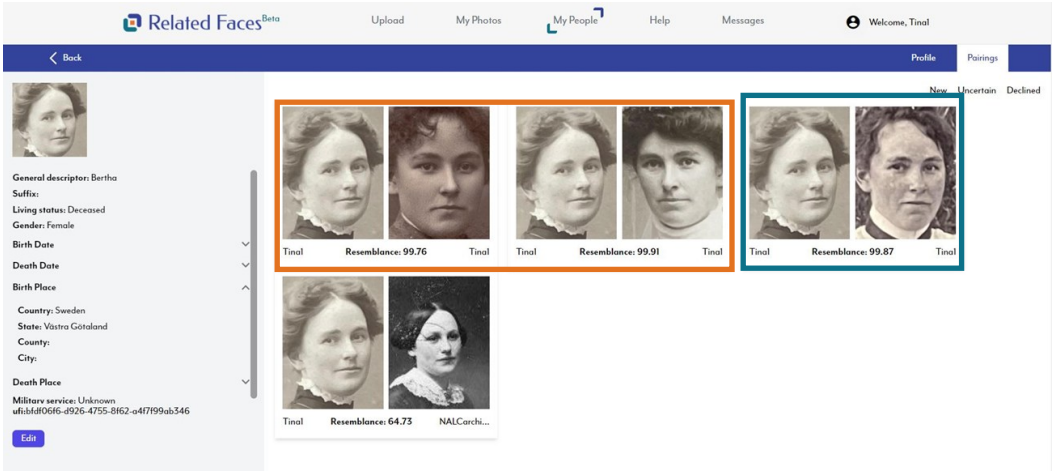
The following examples show identifying pairings made between a known person, Bertha Berntsson and a previously unknown person given the General Descriptor of “Bertha.” (in orange) Notice, also, each of these profiles has also made a pairing with an additional previously unidentified person from a third profile. (in teal)

Profile for a known person





Profile for an unknown person



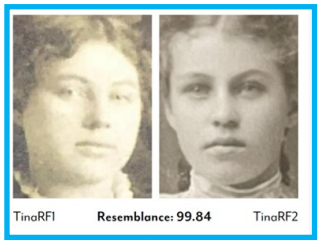
Group Photos Hold Many Possibilities

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 me 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.

In our example, a single group photo was able to solve the mysteries behind 4 sister's wedding photos. In addition Related Faces combined with church records made it possible to identify every person in the wedding photos.

Finding Brides



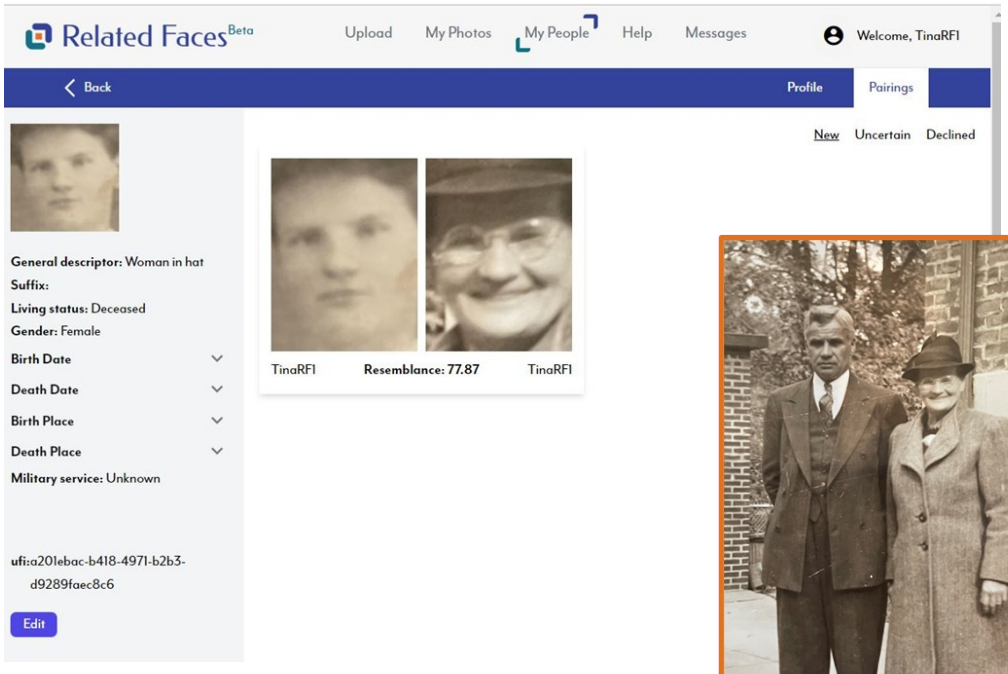
Misidentified

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.

Photos Labeled as Kate Schlobohm Pope verified by many family members

Photo Labeled Kate Schlobohm ?

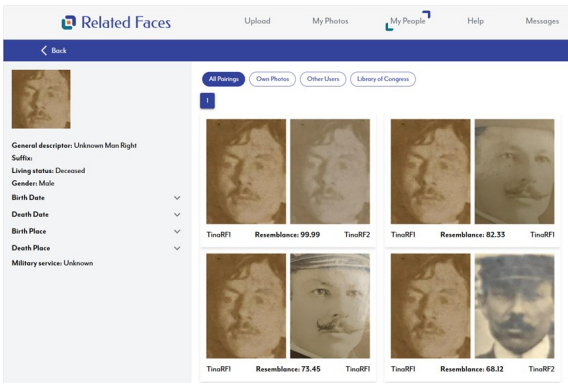
Clarifying the photo identification as actually Judith Svancar Zovadny



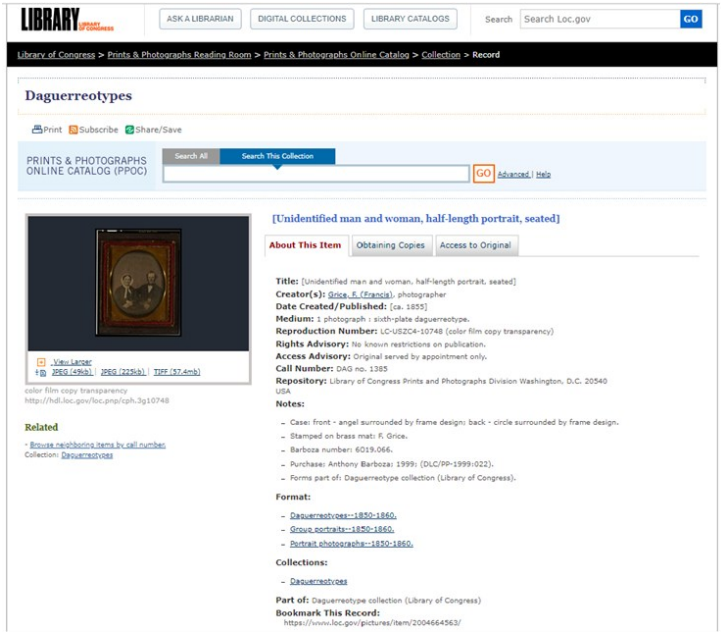
Be Open to What You Find, It May Reveal a New Path

Many times, you can expect to be surprised and delighted by the results Related Faces returns to you. We often find the same unknown person in several family photos, after all, our ancestors wanted photos with their friends too, not just their family.

As we are leafing through our photos, we don't always see what is right in front of us, those all important FAN club members. Related Faces is great at finding those faces and showing them to us, when we take the time to look.



Another feature we are please to offer is to pair your photos with ones from the U.S. Library of Congress that are suitable for facial recognition. This is an added bonus that just may help you knock down a long standing brick wall. If you find your person has made a pairing with a photo from the LoC, Related Faces enables you to simply click on the provided URL and we will take you to that photo's page at the LoC.



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: RFPTVQK208 exp: 4/30/25

Relatedfaces.com

(Here are the links that Tina said she would send to us at the end of her talk)

Tim,

Thank you very much for having me today! I really enjoyed meeting all of you!

Here are a few sites your members 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/
- https://fortlewis.edu/finding_aids/images/M194/PostcardDating.htm
- https://ancestralfindings.com/more-photo-identification-tips-hairstyles-of-the-19thcentury
- Craig's Daguerreian Registry: https://craigcamera.com/dag
- https://americanantiquarian.org/ambrotypes-inventory
- https://americanantiquarian.org/tintypes-inventory
- https://vintagedancer.com/1900s/history-titanic-hats-edwardian-era/

Take care,

Tina