

Identify Your Ancestor In That Photograph

Strategies To Analyze & Determine Who Is In
Your Family Photographs

Workbook

by Lisa Lisson



Introduction

Welcome! Let's get started identifying those mystery photographs in your collection. The pages in this workbook go hand in hand with the strategies presented in the *Identify Your Ancestor In That Photograph* e-book.

Each of the strategies is presented below. Print each worksheet and work through recording your findings on your mystery photograph or simply use the worksheets as a guide.

Don't forget to join our exclusive facebook group to chat and share with other readers of [Identify Your Ancestor in That Photograph: Strategies to Analyze & Determine Who Is In Your Family Photographs](#). I will be in the Facebook group as well, so be sure to join the conversations.

Disclosure

This e-book may contain affiliate links which means I may earn a commission if you decide to purchase a product/service. This does not cost you extra. Be assured I only recommend products/services that I use and think you would like too. Read my full [disclosure policy](#) and [privacy policy](#) .

Chapter 1

The Provenance of Your Photograph

How did your photograph come into your possession? Who was the original owner?

Which family line is your photograph most likely linked?

Was the photograph in a group of other photographs? If so, do you know the identities of the other photographs?

Clues to Carry Forward

Chapter 2

Identify the Type of Photograph You Have

Determine the type of photograph you are working with by taking a close look at the photograph's characteristics.

Measurements of Your Photograph

- Width _____
- Height _____

Thickness of Your Photograph

- Thick "cardstock" paper? _____
- Thinner paper photograph? _____
- Is your photo metal? _____

Color

- Color of cardstock: _____

Clues to Carry Forward

What is your best estimation for the time period of your photograph?

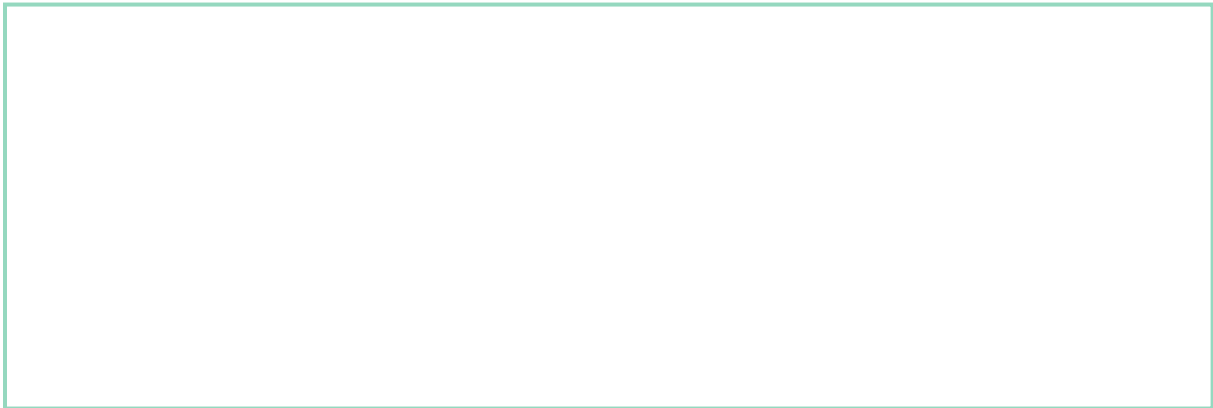
Chapter 3

Google Image Search

This is a quick strategy to perform. Find “how to” photographs on page 24 in the *Identify Your Ancestor In That Photograph* e-book.

- Go to www.Google.com/imghp. Click the camera icon on the right side of the search box.
- Upload the image of your photograph.
- Review the results.

Results of Image Search



Head over to the [Facebook group](#) and share your results!

Chapter 4

Tax Stamps


Today let's talk about Tax Stamps!

- Flip your photograph over.
- Is there a tax stamp affixed to your photo? _____
- If so, what color and denomination is it? _____
- Is there an outline of where a tax stamp likely was? _____

If so, you are fortunate and can date your photograph to within a few years during the Civil War.

Refer back to Chapter 4 (page 29) of the *Identify Your Ancestor In That Photograph* e-book to determine a more accurate date based on the color and denomination of the tax stamp.

Clues to Carry Forward



Chapter 5

Let's Talk Fashion!

Having a photograph taken was an occasion for our ancestors. Fashion was important and important clues from the hairstyles and clothing in your photograph will be gleaned from the fashion of the individuals.

Describe the hairstyle of your ancestor in the photo.

If a woman, describe the style of dress she is wearing. Pay attention to the sleeves, fit of the bodice and type of collar.

If a man, describe the style of suit he is wearing. Pay attention to the length of coat, the type of collar and tie. Is he wearing a hat? What type?

Now that you have closely examined the fashions of your ancestor, determine the time period your ancestor would have worn these fashions. Refer back to the Chapter 5 (page 36) of the *Identify Your Ancestor In That Photograph* e-book and the resource list (page 79) for fashions of the past.

Clues to Carry Forward

What is the time period of your photograph based on your ancestor's fashions?

Chapter 6

Research the Photo's Photographer

Information on the photographer of the photo can provide important clues about your photograph.

- Does your photograph have a photographer's logo on the back?

- Is the photographer's name on the front of the photo at the bottom?

- If so, what is the name and location of the photographer?

Use the census records and city directories to determine the time period the photographer was working in the indicated location. Refer back to Chapter 6 (page 48) of the *Identify Your Ancestor In That Photograph* e-book.

Clues to Carry Forward

What information did you learn about the photo's photographer?

Chapter 7

Compare Your New Information With

You have spent lots of time examining and gathering clues on the subject of your unknown photograph. Now it is time to turn to your family tree and your previous genealogy research to determine who the subject of the photo is.

If you cannot definitively identify your ancestor in your photograph, don't worry. You know more than you did when you started. Continue on for a few more strategies.

Possible Candidates for the Individual in the Photo

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My Ancestor in the Photograph is:

Chapter 8

Find Clues to Your Ancestor's Physical Appearance

Search in genealogical records for clues to your suspected ancestor's appearance.

Refer back to Chapter 8 (page 56) of the *Identify Your Ancestor In That Photograph* e-book for details on each of the record sets below.

Check the following resources:

- Draft Cards (WWI & WWII)
- Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) Records
- Jail Records
- Passport Applications
- Oral History
- Other: _____

Clues to Carry Forward

Describe any physical characteristics you discovered.

Chapter 9

Identifying Ancestors in More Modern Photographs

If you are working with a more “modern” photograph, more options are available to find other photographs of your ancestors or physical descriptions of your ancestor.

Refer back to Chapter 9 (page 63) of the *Identify Your Ancestor In That Photograph* e-book for details on each of the record sets below.

Check the following resources:

- School Yearbooks
- Church Directories/Histories
- Family Histories
- Society Pages of the Newspapers
- Distant collateral relatives – *No cousin is too distant to potentially have photographs or other information on your ancestors.*
- Facebook Groups

Clues to Carry Forward

Did you find another photo of your ancestor?

Chapter 10

Post Your Photograph to Photo Sharing Sites

Sometimes despite our best efforts, we simply do not have enough clues or information to determine with confidence the identity of the individual in a photograph.

If that is the case for you, there is another strategy for you. Post your photo to Photo Sharing Sites such as [Flickr](#), Facebook Groups (location and surname focused), [DeadFred.com](#) and [Forgotten Faces, Forgotten Places Facebook Group](#) .

Additionally, contact genealogical and historical societies serving the area where your ancestors lived for the possibility of sharing your unknown photograph in their newsletter or on their website.

Refer back to Chapter 10 (page 66) of the *Identify Your Ancestor In That Photograph* e-book for details on each of the sites above.

Sites You Posted Your Unknown Photograph To:

Be sure and check back with these sites periodically for possible updates.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Don't forget to share your successes and ongoing challenges on the [Facebook page](#)! You never know where a new idea or clue may originate.