

FAMILY PHOTO IDENTIFICATION WORKSHEET

For unidentified, partially identified, or mystery family photos



Why use this worksheet?

A photograph without names or context can become a mystery within a generation. This worksheet helps you preserve the clues, identifications, and stories that give a family photo its meaning.



How to use it:

Complete one sheet for each mystery or partially identified photo. Record what you know, what you suspect, what clues you see, and what next steps might help confirm the identification.



1. OBSERVE

Look closely at the details in the photo.



2. COMPARE

Match clues with other photos and records.



3. RECORD

Write down what you know and what you're unsure of.

PHOTO NUMBER:

KNOWN / SUSPECTED PEOPLE:

ESTIMATED DATE:

LOCATION:

FAMILY BRANCH / SURNAME LINE:

PHOTOGRAPHER / STUDIO:

CLOTHING, UNIFORM, OR ERA CLUES:

WRITING ON FRONT / BACK:

RELATED DOCUMENTS OR PHOTOS:

SOURCE OF IDENTIFICATION:

CONFIDENCE LEVEL:

☐

Confirmed

☐

Probable

☐

Possible

STORY / CONTEXT / WHY IT MATTERS:

NEXT STEPS / FOLLOW-UP:

CLUES TO NOTICE



Clothing

Styles, fabrics, buttons, uniforms



Hairstyle

Trends can help date a photo



Props

Furniture, tools, mags/books, flowers



Vehicles

Type, model, license plates (if visible)



Architecture

Buildings, doors, windows, landscapes



Studio Imprint

Photographer's name, location, logos



Handwriting

Notes, dates, names, inscriptions

"Every detail
can be a clue."



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PHOTO DIGITIZATION &
FAMILY LEGACY PRESERVATION