Confirming Smart Matches™ and Record Matches

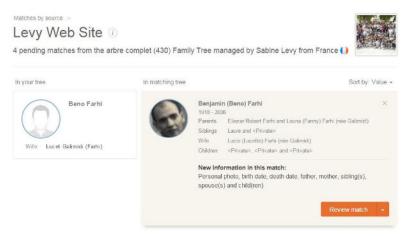*By: Daniel Horowitz - Daniel@MyHeritage.com - Twitter: @MyHChiefGen - Instagram: horowitz_daniel*

MyHeritage has developed powerful technologies to help genealogy researchers find records of ancestral families without even searching. These will absolutely change your life.

Smart Matching™

Smart Matching™ is a unique technology that matches between the individuals in your family tree and billions of individuals in other family trees on MyHeritage.com. The technology is sophisticated and is able to bridge differences in spelling, phonetics, and relationships that may exist between the trees.

Each time you add or edit an individual in your family tree, MyHeritage's algorithm kicks into gear to connect that individual to the millions of people in other family trees published by other MyHeritage users.

When a match is found, both owners are informed, and both can learn from the information the other has added to their tree. Behind the scenes, complex algorithms identify spelling and phonetic variations, understand nicknames, handle synonyms and deal with ethnic variations. Additionally, an interface for viewing any two matching trees side-by-side helps tree owners quickly spot what they may learn from the other tree.

Smart Matching™ allows users to confirm or reject any match, and the platform distinguishes between matches that were confirmed or rejected by each respective tree owner. Users can also start discussions about matches, encouraging dialogue between researchers and family members about discoveries and the exchange of noteworthy information on mutual relatives.

Record Matching

Record Matching technology is designed to automatically find historical records match individuals in the family trees of our users, from our growing collection of billions of records.

The goal of Record Matching is to save time and make discoveries for you. It will automatically research every individual in every family tree on MyHeritage, consolidating all the relevant historical records found in one interactive report, which the user can then review systematically. Automatic research is not a substitute for manual research, but it can certainly make discoveries that many users will not have the time or fortune to find on their own.
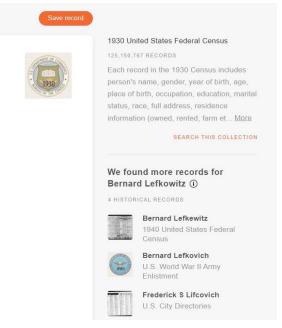
Record Matching is strong with synonyms. This is important, because the way users write names and information in their family trees may differ from what's listed in historical records. So, you can expect matches ranging from the obvious (William vs. Bill) to the subtle (Alessandro vs. Sasha), and you can even expect the technology to overcome some mistakes in family trees.

You are encouraged to confirm or reject the matches. This can help you work your way through the matches more easily. Incorrect matches will become hidden from view when you refresh the page.

Related Records

Related Records is the first technology of its kind, automatically extending the paper trail from a single historical record to additional related records and family tree connections. It generates new leads and discoveries by turning a single record into a door that leads to more. A record discovered on MyHeritage will automatically include a summary of additional records and individuals in family trees relating to it, providing new information and clues to take your research in new directions.
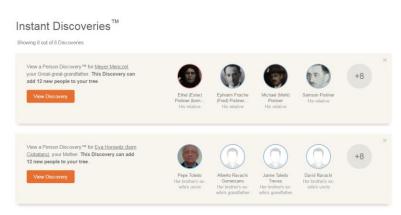
The technology overcomes transitivity — that is, if birth record A matches John D. Smith in a family tree, and John D. Smith matches John Smith in another family tree, then the birth record and John Smith are considered matches. It also adds direct record-to-record matches. This allows for some magical discoveries — for example, a birth record could point to a newspaper article about the wedding of the same person!

Instant Discoveries™

Instant Discoveries™ provides a unique experience for discovering family history information and applying it to one's tree on MyHeritage with ease. We created it with new users in mind, making it easier for them to embark on their family history journey. When signing up for a MyHeritage account and entering some basic information about immediate family members, new users discover ancestors, relatives and never-seen-before photos in just a few seconds.

Instant Discoveries™ is also available to previous users of MyHeritage, enabling multiple individuals and photos to be added to existing family trees in just a few clicks.

An Instant Discovery™ is a "package" of family history information that you can apply in one click. If an individual in your family tree connects to a branch in another tree, you'll be alerted about this and can then choose to add everyone in that branch (up to 50 people) to your tree in a single click, along with all facts, events and photos. Source citations are automatically created in the
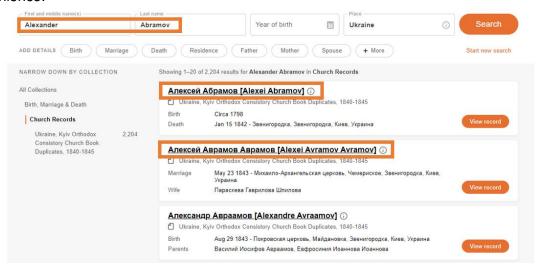
target tree to document where the data came from. To protect the privacy of other users, Instant Discoveries™ never add information on living people.

Photo Discoveries™ makes it easy for you to add photographs of people in your family tree in just a few clicks, based on the work of other users. Many of us cherish the emotional moment when we see a photograph of our ancestor or relative for the first time. Photo Discoveries™ can make those special moments happen for you! Even experienced genealogists are in for a treat.

Global Name Translation™
This technology, unique to MyHeritage, helps break through the language barriers in the quest to uncover your past. This makes it even easier to discover your global roots. The technology automatically translates names found in historical records and family trees from one language into another, at very high accuracy, generating all plausible translations to facilitate matches between names in different languages. In addition, a manual search on MyHeritage's search engine will return results in other languages, automatically translated into your language.
For example, perhaps your American family has Russian roots. Previously, you would have needed to search in Russian to find all information available about your ancestors. Now you can search in English, and receive results in Russian, translated back into English for your convenience.

Search Connect™
This feature allows you to find other users who searched for the people you are looking for, and to view the full data of their search (such as dates, places, relatives, and more), as well as similar searches they've made. If you find a result that seems relevant or useful, you can contact the person who conducted the search and get in touch to exchange more information. Initially containing more than 30 million entries of unique searches for rare names by MyHeritage members, Search Connect™ will continue to grow every week as more users conduct new searches.