Social Security Death Index SSDI *

... a genealogical resource for the later 20th century . . .

Genealogy Workshop, Macintosh Osher LifeLong Learning Institute University of Delaware

Spring 2012 -- Instructor: Linda McMeniman

*officially called the "SS Master File"

What info is in SSDI?

Barebones, but can be very useful

- * Index itself can supply information unknown to you
- *** SSD Index contents:**
- Birth date
- Month and year of death
- Name at death
- Social Security number (useful to ask for more information)
- State where SSN# was issued (youthful residence)
- Last residence, as determined by zip code of residence or zip code where the death benefit was sent

Social Security Death Index

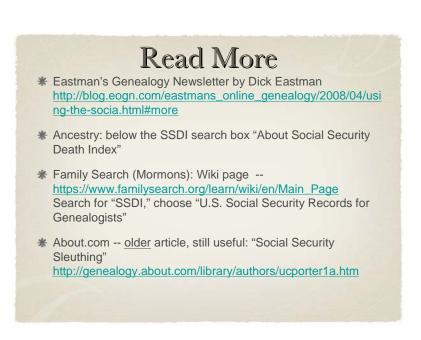
- * Index to deceased holders of Social Security Numbers (SSN)
- * Technically: index of terminated Social Security benefit holders
- * = Index of no-longer-current SSNs and holders
- * A public record compiled by our federal government
- * Computerization begins with about 1961/2 records
- * Placed on-line by several entities starting in late 20th century.

Usefulness

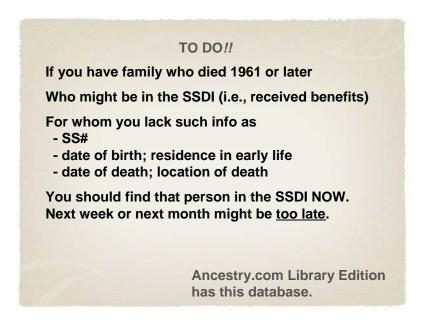
- * Index can lead to information unknown to you
- Use date and residence of death to seek death certificate, obit, cemetery record
- Use birth date & state of issue to seek birth certificate, baptismal record, marriage and children information, etc.
- * If there is a case file associated with the SS recipient, it is destroyed five years after the last benefit is issued. This means that beyond the SS-7 application, the SS "index" does not lead to any further documentation that the genealogist can recover.

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Where is the SSDI?

Offered free in numerous places

- Ancestry Library Edition: Ancestry.com
- http://familysearch.org
 From home page, <u>Browse</u> to United States records, <u>scroll</u> to United States Social Security Death Index
- Family Tree Legends (software co. website)
 http://www.familytreelegends.com/records/ssdi
- GenealogyBank (pay); SSDI free, weekly update http://www.genealogybank.com
- American Ancestors = New England Historical and Genealogical Society

 one of U.S. earliest, most significant genealogical societies

http://americanancestors.org -- constantly updated

Now Removed & not available: Rootsweb refers you to Ancestry.com

* Some sites do not update SSDI more than every year or so



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Typical Record Example



HOME | ABOUT US | SUBSCRIBI

ck to Results | New Search (Result 1 of 1)

Maynard T. Doherty: Social Security Death Index (SSDI) Death Record

Name: Maynard T. Doherty
State of Issue: Illinois

Date of Birth: Tuesday July 20, 1909
Date of Death: May 1988
Est. Age at Death: 78 years, 9 months

Last known residence:

City: Park Ridge
County: Cook
State: Illinois
ZIP Code: 60068
Latitude: 42.0122
Longitude: -87.8435

Continue Discovering Your Family's Past

Use these links to continue exploring the **Doherty** family history:

- . Doherty family obituaries in Illinois
- . Doherty family in Historical Newspapers
- Search all of GenealogyBank for the Doherty family

from http://genealogybank.com

from ancestry Library Edition

Social Security Administration Office of Earnings Operations

Office of Earnings Operation
FOLA Workgroup

300 N. Greene Street

P.O. Box 33022

Baltimore, Maryland 21290

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

I am writing this request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 552. I hereby request a copy of the SS-5, Application for Social Security Card, or a corresponding NUMIDENT printout (see below) for the following individual:

Doherty, Maynard 343-09-7787

Birth: 20 Jul 1909 Death: May 1988

This individual is deceased, having been listed in the Social Security Administration's Death Master File. I understand the fee for this service is \$27 for copy of original SS-5 application OR \$16 for copy of an abbreviated NUMIDENT printout when the Social Security Number is provided. I am requesting a (circle one: SS-5 copy OR Numident printout) Included is a check for \$_____ made out to the Social Security Administration to cover any administrative costs required by this request.

Please respond to my request upon receipt of this initial correspondence. Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Sincerely





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Part 2 of Social Security Research: Send for a Person's S.S. Application

Beyond the information in the index, you <u>may</u> learn more from the person's Social Security Application. (Until recently, a new worker had to apply for an SS card.)

These <u>applications</u> contain much person information --in particular, names of parents which may not be obtainable in any other place.

Unfortunately, since at least November, the S.S. Administration has <u>redacted</u> (blocked out) the names of parents of any SS applicant born in the last 100 years on the premise that the parents might still be alive. If you can prove the parents are deceased, their names will not be redacted.

Regulations require completion and return of this form strates not later than December 5, 1936.	TREASURY DEPARTMENT INTERNAL REVISION SHORES U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER	
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story Home	This is an archival or historical document and may not reflect current policies or procedures
	Social Security Numbers Employee SSN Application Form
	NOTE: This form and the background information is NO LONGER VALID. If you want a copy of the current application form and supporting material IT IS AVAILABLE HERE.
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In the words of the Social Security Administration:

"Please Note: We will not disclose information about any person in our records who is under 120 years old, except in those cases where we have acceptable proof of death (e.g., death certificate, obituary, newspaper article, or police report).

Also, under our current policy, we do not release the parents' names on an SS-5 application unless the parents' are proven deceased, have a birth date more than 120 years ago, or the number holder on the SS-5 is at least 100 years of age."

A blogger comments: So, for example, if you wanted to obtain a copy of the original SS-5 submitted by a person born in 1920, because you don't know anything about the person's parents, you won't be able to learn that information because the SSA assumes the parents of that person are alive and most likely over 113 years old!

Oldest person in U.S. would now be 119 (2010 data):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of the verified oldest people

Mail request form for someone's SS# Application is SSA-711

The person's SS# Application is his or her form SSA-7

- * \$27 if you know the SS#.
- * \$29 if they search by name (SS# unknown).

Go to SSAdmin site and read instructions: http://www.ssa.gov/foia/html/foia_guide.htm

SS Admin now has an on-line request system.

You can choose to order a photocopy of the full SS# application or a computer extract [transcript] for less \$. In cases where last names may be often miswritten, ordering the copy is the better choice -- except for the redaction issue.

Note: You can still order by mail, using check, Money Order or credit card.

Example: SS# application METORS CONTROL ATTOCHES CONTROL OF NOTINE, SELECTIVE MECHINI NEWSER The measure of the control of the co man govern pentil a har or same, a feet or or Limibergh 'Charles Auguetus Lindbergh SHOP OF BACKS CORNERS SHOP SHOP Peb. 4, 1902 Petroit ATTENDED TO SECURE OF AND ADDRESS OF Charles A. Lindbergh Evangeline Longo Land SECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE Fun Meerican World Atrunys, Inc. 130 S. Agrid St., See Tork, S.T. April 17, 1958 Purpo Mesa TERRECEY DEPARTMENT (present hortes) Survey (4-1945) . Father's full name "regardless of whether living or dead" • Full name at birth (including maiden name)• Mother's full name, including maiden name, "regardless of whether living or dead" Present mailing address Sex and race • Ever applied for SS number/Railroad Retirement before? Yes/No Age at last birthday · Current employer's name and address Date of birth Date significantry.com Library Edition has this database.
 Applicant's signature Place of birth (City, county, state) · Father's full name "regardless of whether living or dead"

Mother's full name, including maiden name, "regardless of whether living or dead"

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A useful and up-to-date web page for SS- 7 ordering how-tos is at "Italian Genealogy Online" http://www.angelfire.com/ok3/pearlsofwisdom/ssnapp request.html

