

Social Security Death Index Social Security Claims & Applications Applying for the Original SS-5

The Social Security Administration was created in 1935. Your ancestors may have filled out an application to apply for a Social Security card shortly thereafter. The Social Security Death Index was created in 1962. While many records are available from 1935 forward, most records are found after 1962. These records are available for genealogical research for free.

The Social Security Death Index and the Social Security Claims and Applications Index can be some of the most important documents that we can find when researching our family history. Applying for the original application (SS -5) is incredibly important when researching our family history as it provides additional information the indexes do not. You will always want to dig to the original records, whenever possible.

When searching for your ancestors using the Social Security records, you will find two record sets. One is the **Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014** and the other is the **Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007**. You will want to use both indexes, as they provide a little different information.


Social Security Death Index (SSDI), 1935-2014

The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) can be found in several places and are free to use. They can be found on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, MyHeritage.com, and FindMyPast.com. This is where you will want to start and collect all data found for your ancestor. You will want to note the Social Security Number before moving on to the next step.

Additionally, the Last Residence is not always the last address of your ancestor.

It could be that of the person filing the claim or settling the estate. Either way, it may provide clues.

✓ Saved to: [Jensen, Franciska Emilie Kornelia](#) in tree "HENLEY - KNOX Family Tree 2015 USE THIS ONE" [Remove](#)

	Name: Frances Madsen
Request copy of original application	Social Security Number:
Add or update information	Birth Date: 17 Aug 1880
Report a problem	Issue Year: 1966
	Issue State: California
	Last Residence: 90814, Long Beach, Los Angeles, California, USA
	Death Date: 15 Jan 1972

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Social Security Claims and Applications Index, 1936 – 2007

This database picks up where the SSDI leaves off. You also want to search this index for additional information. Make sure to match the Social Security numbers from the SSDI. To ensure you have the right person. Only Ancestry has the Social Security Claims and Applications Index. Here you will also want to note the Social Security Number and extra notes at the bottom for variations of the ancestor's name (especially for women).

✓ Saved to: Madsen, Herman Miller in tree "HENLEY - KNOX Family Tree 2015 USE THIS ONE" Remove

No Image
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Name:	Herman Miller Madsen
Gender:	Male
Race:	White
Birth Date:	25 May 1880
Birth Place:	Laramie, Wyoming
Father:	Christophe Madsen
Mother:	Laura Nelson
SSN:	
Notes:	May 1937: Name listed as HERMAN MILLER MADSEN

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Where to find the Social Security Death Records

On **Ancestry**, click the Search tab at the top of the home page, drop down to Card Catalog, and do a Keyword search for "SSDI." You will find both record sets. Search for your ancestor after 1935 in both record sets. [This direct link may take you there.](#)

On **FamilySearch** go to the Search tab at the top, drop down to records, in the lower right corner search in the "Find a Collection" field for "United States Social Security Death Index." [This direct link may take you there.](#)

On **MyHeritage**, login, click Research tab at the top of the page, drop down to Collection Catalog, in the upper right corner search "Social Security Death" and both record sets will pop up. [This direct link may take you there.](#)

Applying for the SS-5 (Original Application)

You should [apply for the original application](#) your ancestor filled out when they applied for a Social Security card.

- Once there, choose Create Request > Begin > Fill out the form.
- The Agency is the Social Security Administration.
- The Contact Information is your information (not your ancestors).
- Your fees should be about \$27, add a description of what you are looking for such as the SS-5 and your ancestor's name. More will be added below.
- Request Type is the "Photocopy of Original Application for a Social Security Card (SS-5) of a Deceased Individual."

Additional Information

- Request Type and Fee: Photocopy of Original Application for a Social Security Card (S...
- Certification: N/A
- Are You Providing the Subject's SSN?: Yes
- Social Security Number: [Empty field]
- Date of Birth: [Empty field]
- Name of Individual at Birth: [Empty field]
- Gender: N/A
- Deceased Individual's Parent/Mother's Name at Birth: [Empty field]
- Deceased Individual's Parent/Mother's Married Name(s) (if any): [Empty field]
- Name(s) of Individual (if other than above/other names(s) used): [Empty field]
- Deceased Individual's Parent/Father's Name at Birth: [Empty field]

- You will need to provide a Social Security Number and the rest of the information to the best of your ability.
- You can supply any supporting documentation by attaching files. If you have any documentation, I suggest you attach them.

U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER	
EACH ITEM SHOULD BE FILLED IN. IF ANY ITEM IS NOT KNOWN WRITE "UNKNOWN"	
1. Joseph (EMPLOYEE'S FIRST NAME)	Manpathy (MIDDLE NAME)
2. 1115 Gerst. Way (North Side) (STREET AND NUMBER)	3. No. 13 (POST OFFICE)
4. Unemployed (BUSINESS NAME OF PRESENT EMPLOYER)	5. _____ (BUSINESS ADDRESS OF PRESENT EMPLOYER)
6. 27 (AGE AT APPLICATION)	7. June 18 1911 (DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR) (SUBJECT TO LATER VERIFICATION))
9. Frank Thomas Russo (FATHER'S FULL NAME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER LIVING OR DEAD)	10. Theresa Corsi (MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER LIVING OR DEAD)
11. SEX: MALE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/> (CHECK (X) WHICH)	12. COLOR: WHITE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ (CHECK (X) WHICH) (SPECIFY)
13. GIVE DATE YOU BECAME AN EMPLOYEE IF YOU BEGAN EMPLOYMENT AFTER NOV. 21, 1939	14. HAVE YOU FILLED OUT A CARD LIKE THIS BEFORE? No. (IF ANSWER IS "YES" ENTER PLACE AND DATE OF ORIGINAL FILING AND REASON FOR FILING AGAIN)
15. 12-13-38. (DATE SIGNED)	16. Joseph A. Russo (EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE - AS USUALLY WRITTEN - DO NOT PRINT)

Replies may take several weeks to several months depending on the backlog of requests.

The information found on the SS-5 can add to the facts for your ancestor, especially if their parents are listed.

In most cases you will find:

- Name at the time of application
- Address. (Note: The date of the application pins your ancestor in a place in time.)
- Employer... and address
- Age
- Birthdate
- Place of birth
- Father
- Mother
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Date of employment
- Have you filled out this card before?
- Date
- Actual Signature (Note the signature for comparison to other records.)

Addition Resources and Links:

- [Genealogy TV Video for this Handout](#)
- [More about the Social Security Death Administration Records](#)
- [Social Security Records on Ancestry](#)
- [SSDI on FamilySearch](#)
- [Social Security Applications and Claims on MyHeritage](#)
- [SSDI on MyHeritage](#)