

Hearing on Social Security's Death Records
1 February 2012
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This statement is to be attributed to Selma Blackmon

The following is a very brief note I posted on Examiner.com on 1 February 2012.

As the last paragraph demonstrates, the SSDI is very important for research. Without this tool, the deceased military father would not have been located. Other research attempts did not narrow the search for a specific person. The family did know the approximate death date and military history. The family did not know the exact death date or location. Three businesses offer access to the SSDI. Changes in access will affect these businesses as well as genealogical research. Genealogy is the second largest hobby. Family history research online and on location stimulate our economy.

Genealogy: Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

Genealogists acquire unknown family information using the Social Security Death Index. (SSDI). The family historian may find a death date, death location, clues for obituary or cemetery research. This information will lead the historian to the "how and where" to order a copy of the death certificate.

The SSDI was created from the Social Security Administration's Death master file. The index with related information is available on:

Ancestry.com {www.ancestry.com} includes searching tips, FAQ, and how to write an application request letter to the Social Security Administration.

Family search.org {www.familysearch.org}, a free site, includes wiki information on the collection time period, description, and content.

[[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Social_Security_Death_Index_\(FamilySearch_Historical_Records\)](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Social_Security_Death_Index_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records))]

Genealogybank.com [www.genealogybank.com] offers a free printable search results with suggestions to their fee site for obituaries and historical newspapers. The obituary and historical newspaper search is free; access to the articles is fee based.

The SSDI includes deaths reported to the Social Security Administration (SSA) beginning about 1962. Not every death is included. Sites for more information:

The Social Security Death Index: A Genealogy Records Guide by Joe Beine [<http://www.deathindexes.com/ssdi.html>]

Roots Web's Guide to Tracing Family Trees, Guide No. 10. *A Unique Finding Aid: Social Security Death Index (SSDI) and Railroad Retirement Board Records* [<http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson10.htm>]

"Social Security Sleuthing" offered by The National Genealogical Society consists of five lessons on a CD. [www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/socialsecurity_sleuthing]

Tears flowed. "This helps me see him as a living person. This makes him real to me." This reaction occurred from a family member who had never met his/her father. The father served in WWII and died in mid-1950. After looking online for the digitized SSDI information, the exact date and location were found. With this information, an online digitized Texas death certificate was printed. Tears of joy flowed as this family member went away to share new information with other family members.

Thank you for understanding the need to continue to offer this valuable research tool.

Selma Blackmon