

Government Money:

MyHeritage's *U.S. Social Security*

Applications and Claims, 1936 – 2007

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Records in this collection were created by the Social Security Administration when individuals applied for a Social Security Number, or when a claim was made for disability, retirement, or death benefits.

For **Applications**, the records include the applicant's full name, birth date and place, gender, father's full name, and mother's full maiden name. These application records were extracted from the SS-5 form. For **Claims**, the records include the claimant's full name, birth date and place, and gender.

The *U.S. Social Security Death Index*, which is a separate collection, does not contain the person's birth date or place, or parent's names.

The Social Security Number does not appear in either collection.

U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims, 1936 – 2007 contains records of individuals with a verified death between 1936 to 2007 OR who would have been over 110 years old on December 31, 2007.

A few inconsistencies:

- information for applications before 1973 may be incomplete
- an individual may not have a record in both collections
- an individual may have multiple **Claim** records
- only about 50% of the **Claims** have the US state or country of birth
- women had to make a name change when they married; both the maiden name and married name are listed in the **Applications** file
- proof of identity was required to receive a duplicate Social Security Card
- some files contain place name abbreviations or truncated personal names

To find the *U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims, 1936 – 2207* Collection on the MyHeritage website:

- Start from the MyHeritage HOME PAGE
- Click on RESEARCH on the far-right side of the top bar
- Click on COLLECTION CATALOG in the Drop-down Menu
- Enter SOCIAL SECURITY in the Search Box on the far-right side
- Choose *U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims, 1936 – 2007* in the collection results

Record Types in the Collection:

- Applications for a Social Security Number
- Claims for Disability or Retirement – noted as a Life Claim
- Claims for Death Benefits – noted as a Death Claim

The [Benefits.gov](https://www.benefits.gov) website has Descriptions for Social Security Disability Insurance, Social Security in Retirement, and the Social Security Lump Sum Death Benefit.

Available Searches in the Collection:

- First and Middle Names
- Last Name
- Birth Day/Month/Year
- Birth Place
- Mother's Name
- Father's Name
- Gender

A Check Box is available for Place Must Match or Match all terms exactly.

Sample Searches and Results demonstrated in the webinar were designed to show the basics of how to generate more results when needed, and also when to include less information in the Search Boxes to reduce the number of results.

Sample Searches:

1. Surname Search for YOPP in Virginia with Place Must Match – 144 results. Example was for a man who was born in 1884. Submission Date was 1937. Names of Parents were listed, including the Mother's Maiden Name.

2. Surname Search for BARTLETT in Virginia, with Place Must Match – 723 results.
3. Surname Search for BARTLETT in Virginia, with a Birth Date of 1880 entered – 54,423 results (includes individuals with later birth dates and other birth places). Example was a **Life Claim** for a woman born in 1880 who died in 1945. The Submission Date was 1976. The Life Event is not identified. Another Example was a **Death Claim** for a man born in 1880 who died in 1940. Submission Date was 1976. The Field Office for the Claim is listed.
4. Search by Father's Name – only result is for a daughter's **Application**. He has no other listing in the Collection.
5. Search by Mother's Name – only result is for a daughter's **Application**. She has no other listing in the Collection
6. Surname Search for ZYLKS with Match Exactly – only 1 result with that spelling.
7. Surname Search for ZYLKS with no other search parameters – 19 results, 18 of these results have variant spellings for the surname.
8. Surname Search for MONSEN in Utah, with a Birth Date of 1891 – 1 result was for an **Application**. Names of parents listed, including the Mother's Maiden Name. Example was Edith Elnora Monsen.

Results will vary with every search. In my experience, searching with less information in the search boxes is best. Narrow the results by checking the Match Exactly box for the Name and/or by checking the Place Must Match box. Increase results by not checking the Match Exactly or Place Must Match boxes.

MyHeritage offers additional features with searches in their collections. In the last Surname Search for MONSEN in Utah, with a Birth Date of 1891 example, the additional feature selected was, "We found more records for Edith Elnora Monsen." This feature has increasing results over time. It may have located 4 Historical Records for the person when you first see the notice. The next time you see the notice, it may have 10 Historical Records or more. When these Historical Records are searched, the information found in them is retained by the system. This is a wonderful tool to access accurate data for your ancestors.

Sources for Historical Records on MyHeritage are plentiful!! The Collection Catalog feature 7,357 collections.

Collections:

Histories, memories & Biographies

Directories, Guides & References

Maps

Census & Voter Lists

Public Records

Birth, Marriage & Death

Military

Schools & Universities

Family Trees

Photos

Books & Publications

Newspapers

Immigration & Travel

Government, Land, Court & Wills

Collections Can be refined by years:

1400 – 1599

1600 – 1699

1700 – 1799

1800 – 1899

1900 – 1999

2000+

Collections can be refined by location:

Africa

Asia

Canada

Europe

Latin America

Oceania

USA

The U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims, 1936 – 2007 is a Public Records Collection on MyHeritage. It contains important genealogical information collected by local, state, and national government agencies. It provides valuable data about a person's residence, family members, birth, marriage, and death. Make it your first search for ancestors from the late 1800's.

Family History research is a worthwhile hobby, passion, and profession. Finding GREAT SOURCES like this collection is a wonderful experience. I encourage all researchers to VERIFY ALL of your ancestors' data with Historical Records.

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