Social Security Databases in Ancestry LE

The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is a death index compiled by the Social Security Administration.

- The SSDI includes deceased persons with Social Security numbers whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration.
- It provides at least the month and year of death of individual listed. It will also list the date of birth.
- The date coverage is 1935-2014, but most of the people in the SSDI died after 1962.

How to Search:

1. Go to the Search icon and select Card Catalog.

2. Search for “social security” in the Title box and then click Search.

3. Select the Social Security Death Index.

4. Enter the name you wish to search. You can also add years and/or locations to narrow the search. Click Search.

Tip: The SSDI gives the date of birth too, so it is not just a source for deaths. Also, if you don’t know a woman’s married name, you may be able to locate her by using the date of birth and first name. Or, if a child was adopted after s/he lived with the birth family for a while, you could see a list of individuals with a particular birth date.
5. Click on “View Record” next to your ancestor’s name.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>View Record</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Death Date</th>
<th>Last Residence (City, County, State)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Frank Sinatra</td>
<td>12 Dec 1915</td>
<td>15 May 1998</td>
<td>90212 Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, California, USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. You may request a copy of an ancestor’s original “Application for a Social Security Number” from the SSA for a fee. It may supply you with specific birth information, parent’s names, and other data. If the person would have been less than 100 years old when they receive your copy request, the parents’ names will be redacted.

7. The Social Security numbers of those who died within the last 10 years will not be displayed.

8. Not finding your ancestor?*
   - Try searching with a broader or different location, or try these suggestions:
     - Change dates around (e.g. instead of searching for 5 Oct 1954, search for 10 May 1954).
     - Change years around (e.g. 1984 becomes 1948).
     - Use all other possible spellings of the name (and perhaps some that aren't so likely).
     - Switch last name and first name around.
     - Try searching for a middle name as a first name.
     - Try searching for just the first name OR just the last name.

*Not everyone will be in the SSDI:

Prior to the 1960s, farmers, housewives, government employees, non-employed individuals, and those with a separate retirement plan might not have had a Social Security number. It was not until 1988 that all children had to have Social Security numbers.
9. Perform steps 1-3, but select the **Social Security Claims Index** instead.

10. Enter search terms as seen to the right and then click the Search button.

11. Select Frances Mary Sinatra born 6 Dec 1917.

12. As you can see, you not only find out her parents’ names, but also her place of birth, and her name changes with their dates.