Records of the Railroad Retirement Board

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National Archives at Atlanta
October 1, 2022
National Archives at Atlanta

Textual Research Room is open
Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 4:00
by appointment only

Computer Room is not open at this time

atlanta.archives@nara.gov

5780 Jonesboro Road  Morrow, GA 30260
Prior to the Railroad Retirement Board

- Individual companies had pension plans, but were generally inadequate (no disability, financially unstable)
- Great Depression drove railroad pension system into a state of crisis
- Railroad Retirement Act of 1934 established RRB
- Legal issues delayed payments of benefits until 1936
Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)

Created in 1935 to provide benefits to railroad workers

- Retirement
- Survivor
- Unemployment
- Disability
RRB Timeline

- 1936: Retirement benefits with limited disability
- 1938: Unemployment benefits added
- 1946: Survivor, sickness, and occupational disability benefits added
- 1951: Spousal benefits added
- 1965: Medicare benefits added
- 1974: Introduction of a two tier benefit system
RRB Records at the National Archives at Atlanta

- We hold approximately 56,000 cubic feet of records
- Over 1.5 million files dating 1937-2000
- Files accessioned to NARA had been inactive for at least 7 years prior to 2010
- Possible privacy restrictions due to medical information and third party information
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<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
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About the Claim Numbers

Social Security Numbers beginning with 700-728 were issued by the RRB

- Prefixes to 6 digit claim numbers:
  - A=Retired employee
  - D=Survivor annuitant
  - H=Widow/Widower
Typical Documents in the RRB Files Relating to Genealogy
Application for Annuity

Includes:
- Date and Place of Birth
- Parents’ Names
- Mother’s Maiden Name
Statement of Service Rendered prior to January 1, 1937

Includes:
• Date and Place of Birth
• Parents’ Names
• Dates of Service Prior to 1937
• Name of Railroad and Occupation
Application for Spousal Annuity

Includes:

- Spouse’s Maiden Name
- Spouse’s Date and Place of Birth
- Spouse’s Parents’ Name
- Spouse’s Mother’s Maiden Name
- Spouse’s Prior Marriages
Statement Regarding Student

Third Party SSN Redacted
**Designation of Beneficiary**

Includes:
- Beneficiary’s Name and Maiden Name if Applicable
- Secondary Beneficiaries-Date of Birth and Relationship to Employee
- Employer and Occupation
Birth Certificate, Baptism, & Bible Verification
Adoption Papers
Marriage Certificate and Verification
Divorce Papers
Death Certificate & State of Death by Funeral Director
Form G-91 Verification of Records

Birth

Marriage

Marriage & Military Service
Dear Mr. Williams,

I am possibly in your office in the middle of writing this letter. I am writing to make some final comments regarding the negotiations that have been taking place. I believe that the final agreement should be reached shortly. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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I am writing to update you on the progress of our project. The initial design is almost complete, and we are currently working on the final touches. I believe that we will be ready for implementation by the end of next month.

Best regards,

[Signature]
More Correspondence

[Handwritten text]

Dear [Name],

I think this is ridiculous.

The continuation of letters I've been sending you are not going to give me any happiness. I'm just bragging this in and out of things.

I can possibly sound out some way to start a step to this. I shall certainly do what is possible. Just write.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Mrs. [Name]
The Rest of the File
How to Order or View the Records

- Claimant’s Name
- Social Security Number
- RRB Claim Number
- Date of Birth
- Date of Death

Midwest Genealogy Center https://quicklook.midwestgenealogycenter.org/

To schedule an appointment or to order copies of the records, please email atlanta.archives@nara.gov
We are open Monday-Friday, 9:00-4:00, by appointment only
Questions?

Thank You!

Photo courtesy of Library of Congress