



Liberty Tree

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It had been so long (fifteen years) since Teresa¹ had renewed her driver's license that the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) had purged her record from its database. She had been ticketed three times for driving without a valid driver license — which in her State is a criminal offense — but thankfully, each time the judgment was withheld adjudication.

Still, she felt she should get a REAL ID-compliant driver's license — the only kind of driver's license offered in her State — if she was to be set free from the anxiety of looking over her shoulder every time she got behind the wheel or traveled using federally-regulated venues like trains or airplanes.

So what was holding Teresa back? The REAL ID requirement that every applicant for a driver license present a Social Security number (SSN) card, other documents having the number on it, or a document certifying that the number she would write on it is the SSN the Social Security Administration (SSA) assigned to her when she first applied for it.

Law of God reigns over Man's laws

As many of Teresa's fellow citizens might ask: what's her big deal with the Social Security number? To the vast majority of Americans, it is an integral component of their everyday life. But to her, a woman with the conviction to be loyal to the Law of God, the SSN is either the mark of the Beast mentioned in Revelation

13:15 or it will be incorporated into a global "mark"-tracking system into which everyone will be forced, whether by statute or under color of law, to participate. Ultimately, it is the mechanism by which global governments will control populations, because their citizens will not be allowed to buy or sell without it.

As many other Christians, Teresa believes that through faith in Jesus Christ, she is a citizen of the Kingdom of God. As such, it is her sincerely-held religious belief that to obtain, use, provide, or acknowledge the SSN in order to exercise any privilege or right is prohibited by God's Law. So she consistently abstains from using any such number in whatever arena she finds herself. For her, two converging lines of causality—one being her growing knowledge of the Scriptures, and the other being her growing knowledge of the law while experiencing the ever-increasing, pervasive demand for the SSN by

A tale of two bureaucracies and the Kingdom

Guest Editorial

Caution: If anyone reading this story DOES NOT have a sincerely-held religious belief that he or she is biblically prohibited from using the Social Security number for ANYTHING, including Social Security benefits, then don't attempt to practice anything mentioned in this tale. One of the proofs of a sincerely-held religious belief is consistent behavior — in other words, not using or providing a Social Security number for ANY REASON to ANY PERSON.

government and the private sector—have finally collided. Solidifying in her mind her sincerely-held religious belief and its legal protections took longer than the decade and a half of driving without a "valid" license. This belief is not a hollow fabrication learned from some patriot-myth process at a weekend seminar, but rather a religious belief written on her heart over a long period of time.

The sole reason for the SSN

When the Social Security Act was first passed in 1934, the sole purpose for a Social Security account number was to track the amount of

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1. This story is based on true events, but names and some details have been changed.

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money to be collected on behalf of an employee for his or her old-age benefits, so that the benefits could be calculated and distributed according to “employment” earnings. And by law, that is still the sole purpose for a Social Security number! However, the moneys collected are held by the Secretary of the Treasury in a general fund, not in segregated accounts for each contributor. It is a common purse, and anyone who wants money from it must apply for it. The account number is used for obtaining those “benefits,” that is, for taking money from the government’s pot. Still, while no one can collect any of the monies without application and an SSN, the government can deny applicants the issuance of benefits.

But here is the bottom line: at its inception, and still today, the SSN is for the tracking and obtaining of benefits from the federal government pot, by law. Even as late as the 1960s, the Social Security cards issued expressly stated right on the front that the number was not for identification purposes. Much has changed with that number since this number: 9-11. That second number ushered in many supposed “security” procedures against “terrorists,” including REAL ID Act.

A DMV adventure

Because her driving record was entirely purged from the DMV databases, Teresa decided to go to the bureau of driver’s licensing to start anew. Mind you, several people she knew personally had previously gone to the same bureau raising the same religious objection. So by now, the clerks had undoubtedly held a “smoky room” pow-wow with their higher-ups as to what to do the next time someone objected.

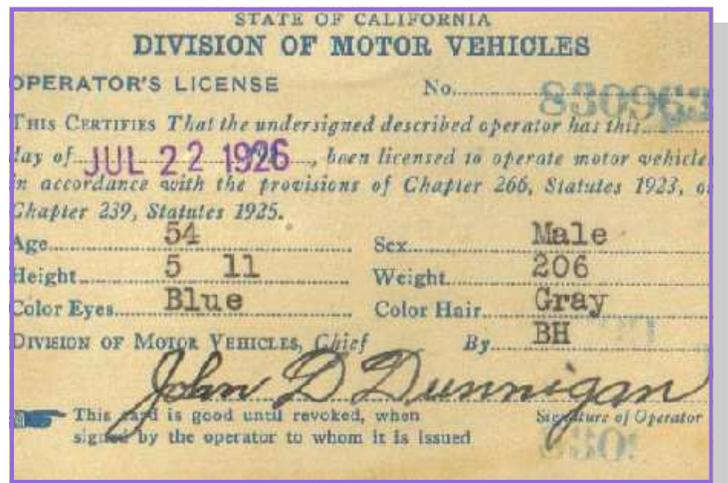
“Now serving S414 at counter 13,” said the computer voice over the loudspeaker. Teresa made her way to counter 13 where she presented every document the DMV could ever want. Then came the big question: “What’s your sosh?”² They just asked for the one document she was religiously barred from providing.

“Sorry,” she said. “I cannot use that number.”

“Oh, all American citizens have to have a Social Security number,” the clerk disdainfully rebutted.

“That is not true,” she volleyed back, showing the clerk a letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA) stating that “The Social Security Act does not require a person to have a Social Security number (SSN) to live and work in the United States, nor does it require an SSN simply for having one.”

With a look worthy of having seen a rattler, the



For decades, it was a simple matter to obtain a license to operate a motor vehicle in the States, as this sample of a 1926 California license attests. Note that neither a person’s address nor photo was required. Today, this ubiquitous license and the databases that accompany it have morphed into a tracking system for the vast majority of residents and citizens.

clerk admitted “learn something new every day!” More than one clerk would learn something new that day.

Since Teresa was applying for a brand-new driver’s license, the clerk sent her to a different clerk who administered the one-hour written test. She got the required 40 correct answers before the hour was up. While she was busy passing the test, the former clerk was busy looking up what documentation the DMV would accept in lieu of an SSN. The new thing the clerk learned was that the DMV would take SSA Form L676 (which is really a letter from the SSA) entitled “Refusal to Process SSN Application.” The clerk wrote this information on a yellow post-it and stuck it on the receipt for payment of the written test. But the clerk never told Teresa how to obtain such a letter; very likely, the clerk had no idea. A Startpage internet search was in order.

How the SSA handles some applications for SSNs

The SSA Program Operations Manual System (POMS) contains the internal procedures of the Social Security System, and instructions to SSA employees on handling applications for SSNs. According to that online manual, the SSA L676 Form is the notice to an SSN card applicant that “the SSN application cannot be processed per RM 10205.090 and RM 10215.110. An application cannot be processed when the applicant does not have all the required evidentiary documents or presents documents that do not meet SSA’s evidentiary requirements (e.g., uncertified photocopies or documents

2. “Sosh” is pronounced with a long o, short for “Social security number.”

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based on the applicant's allegations) per RM 10205.020."³

RM 10205.090 — "Form SS-5 Received and Additional Documentation is Needed"⁴ — states that "[w]hen you cannot process a Form SS-5 (Application for a Social Security Card) because the application is incomplete, the proper evidence is not included with the application ... send the applicant written notice explaining why the SS-5 was not processed and what we need to process the application for an SSN card." That written notice is the SSA L676.

RM 10205.020 — "When an SSN Application May Not Be Processed,"⁵ states in pertinent part: "An application for an original SSN or replacement SSN card may not be processed for the following individuals: An applicant who does not submit evidence of identity and, when applicable, age and U.S. citizenship or lawful alien status."

These POMS instructions apply to either first-

time applicants for an SSN or those who want to apply for a replacement. Only certified documents are acceptable to prove identity (e.g., a certified birth certificate); copies will be rejected.

Bureaucracy against bureaucracy?

Since Teresa's DMV file was purged from the State system and the licensing bureau wanted the SSA L676, she filled out the SS-5 and submitted it to the SSA — but she did not provide certified copies of any documents.

Meanwhile, Teresa started the online four-hour drug and alcohol class, now required of new applicants for driver's licenses. But the administrators of that test again demanded an SSN from her. She adamantly refused to give any number, and told them to call the DMV clerk for confirmation that she did not have to give it. When that hurdle was finally cleared, she returned to the license bureau and presented the certificate of completion to yet another clerk. Now she was ready to take the behind-the-wheel driving test.

At the same time, Teresa had been nagging a State legislator's chief of staff to provide her any citation in the driver's licensing statute which compelled State residents to obtain (key word) an SSN for the purpose of obtaining a driver's license. He never answered the question.

The Social Security Act does not compel anyone to obtain the number; neither do the REAL ID, the Patriot Act, the "Know Your Customer" banking law, Title 22 CFR regulating passports, nor Title 26, the IRS Code. All they do is compel persons to produce the number. Like a Spanish idiom says, "it falls off the tree" that to produce the number you first have to obtain the number (yet no law compels a person to obtain one!). That is called "color of law", i.e., compelling compliance under the authority of an imaginary law — in this case, the imaginary law is one compelling citizens to get an SSN. And, by the way, in Teresa's situation, the State law said nothing about SSA Form L676, either. The staffer never answered her question.

He did, however, send her an email saying, "[I]f you need to renew or make changes to your license/ID information without a SSN, U.S. citizens and permanent residents must present form L-676 from the Social Security Administration, and must bring at least one proof of secondary ID, per state guidelines." What? Form L676? The same form the licensing clerk had told her to obtain days ear-



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SAPF also stands ready to assist **with federal matters** other than IRS income tax issues, including pesky requests for SSNs, and can help with Freedom of Information Act requests and Privacy Act Requests for information (even from the IRS disclosure office!).

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3. <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/lnx/0100299020>

4. <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/lnx/0110205090>

5. <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/lnx/0110205020>

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lier? Two independent government sources saying the same thing about the same form? That was the form Teresa must get!

The SSA responded to her application with the L676; she got it. When she returned to the driver's licensing bureau, she encountered an unusual situation: at least three government employees bent over backwards to help her, repeatedly calling the DMV headquarters at the State Capitol to resolve the ever-popping-up roadblocks on their computer screens to a REAL ID-compliant driver license.

The administrator of the behind-the-wheel driving test was especially amazing. He was the final clerk in the long, obstructive process of obtaining the driver's license. He must have left his station at least three times to overcome the hurdles the computer program was erecting, while complaining about the government under his breath.

"You know they don't care about us, right?" he said. "They didn't care about my dad in WWII when they told him they just wanted him to observe the atomic bomb blasts. Sure! What they were really doing was observing how his body would respond to radiation! They didn't care about me in Vietnam! You see these scars?" he said, as he rolled up his sleeves. "They're cancer scars! They told me Agent Orange would not hurt me if I wore my poncho. What part of my body did the poncho not cover? My forearms!"

Teresa was a little scared for the clerk. Maybe he would be fired if anyone overheard him. But he locked and loaded on getting her that driver's license; she was not leaving without one if he could



Another branch of the beast system.

help it.

And she did. She walked out of that bureau with a REAL ID-compliant, gold star, driver's license! And pursuant to her efforts, she educated many DMV bureaucrats, who learned many new things in the course of traversing the bureaucratic minefield.

The only way Teresa obtained an SSA L676 was by failing to provide exactly what the SSA requires as documentation on the application form. It is a sad day in America, where State bureaucrats will only accept documentation from federal bureaucrats in order to grant a State "privilege."



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