Taking the Next Step Towards Your Ancestor: A Case Study

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As we learn to examine information, we must train our thinking process to separate the cream from the slop. Knowing where to look for additional information is a trained response. Good researchers have a plan and re-evaluate their plan with new findings. Genealogists need to adopt that way of thinking.

Death Records

- 1914
- earlier
- Estate Records
- obituaries
- census records

Marriage Records

- multiples
- newspaper
- census records (

Land Records

- tax lists —
- census records
- minute books
- chancery court records

Census Records

- extraction
- alternatives
- additions
- all

Contact Local Historical Societies/ Preservation Societies/ Libraries .

Are there any finding aids (indices, card files, abstracts, unpublished manuscripts) that are available locally. Where are they located?

Is an inventory of Local Records available - contact State Local Records Office

Maps - county Boundaries Approximate Timeframes for each ancestor

Learn about Civil Districts/ Townships Consider Professional Consultation

Court History Do all census work at home, not in the county

Mini Research Plan

Who	John W. Jones
What	Land Records
When	1796-1820
Where	Robertson County Tennessee
Why	John W. Jones probably moved to Robertson County, Tennessee from Southampton County, Virginia about 1796 or 1797. He disappears from the Southampton Co. Tax List in 1796 and a John Jones is listed on the 1830 Robertson Co. Tennessee Census. The Bible Records of Mary Jones, the daughter of John W. Jones, indicates that she was born in Robertson Co., Tenn. in 1809. There are no extant tax lists available during this time period in Robertson Co. Tenn.

If we check the LDS Family History Library Catalog for Robertson County Land, we find the following:

Topic	Tennessee, Robertson - Land and property
Titles	Deed Books, 1796-1963, Index to Deeds, 1796-1965, Robertson County (Tennessee). Register of Deeds Survey Book, 1824-1898, Robertson County (Tennessee). Surveyor

On a closer inspection, we see an Index to the deeds has been created and is available on film. To save onsite time, we could order the index through the Family History Center and pinpoint the deeds we need to view or create a list of deeds found in the index for John Jones or J. Jones.

Index to Deeds, v. O, 1-2 1796-1907	FHL US/CAN Film 422467