

Although I have not been able to prove it, I believe that John W. Roberts and William G. Roberts were brothers. Here are the reasons for my belief:

1. Both were living in close proximity in District 6 of Overton Co., TN in the 1850 census - as was Mary Roberts, age 60, whom I believe to be their Mother.
2. Both men were born in Virginia.
3. According to the Overton County Circuit Court Minutes, both men were actually in Overton Co. by 1848.
4. William and John appeared in several court cases together, all having to do with debt. SOURCE: OVERTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE CIRCUIT COURT MINUTES OCTOBER 1856 – January 1860.
5. In 1850, John was a saddler living close to William, who was an innkeeper.
6. In 1860, William became a Deputy Sheriff and John became an innkeeper. (Did he take over William's inn for him?)
7. In 1870, John had moved to Obion Co. to become a farmer. (Did he move because of the many debts?) William was listed as a saddler. Both men had evidently been trained to be a saddler.

I actually believe both to be the sons of a Mary Catherine and Wiley Roberts from Charlotte Co., VA. There are records of this family at the Village Presbyterian Church 1825-1858 listing Mary C. as the widow and all of the children except William G. He was the oldest and if this is the family, he may have already moved to TN. Other children listed were: Martha Ann Roberts (with whom Mary lived in 1850 in Overton Co.); Sarah Eliza Roberts; John Ware Roberts; Winslow Christopher Roberts; and Washington Nicholas Roberts. Winslow Christopher ends up in Jackson County, TN and Washington Nicholas goes to Claiborne Co. TN and is listed as a saddler in the 1850 & 1860 census records. Again, I have no proof of these relationships.