

History of Fulton County, Illinois, Together With Sketches of its Cities, Villages and Townships, Educational, Religious, Civil, Military, and Political History: Portraits of Prominent Persons and Biographies of Representative Citizens. History of Illinois, Embracing Accounts of the Prehistoric Races, Aborigines, French, English And American Conquests, and A General Review of its Civil, Political and Military History. Digest of State Laws. Illustrated. Peoria: Chas. C. Chapman & Co., 1879

Christopher Wetsel farmer and stock-raiser, sec. 21; P.O. Astoria. There are few in the county more generally or favorably known than **Mr. Wetsel**, who was born in Cumberland Co., Pa., July 13, 1813. His father, as near as can be ascertained, was also a native of the Keystone State, and by trade a blacksmith. He was married to **Miss Catherine Wunderly**. Three of the nine children she bore him grew to mature years, and two yet survive. The head of the family died during the infancy of **Christopher**. His mother was afterwards married to **Balseer Lutz** and moved to Virginia. **Christopher** grew up amid pioneer associations, and we suppose became early instructed in the rudiments of hard work, his main education. While living in Augusta Co., Va., he was married to **Miss Sarah Cook**. In 1836 he came to Astoria Township and moved into the pioneer log cabin, containing no fire-place. He built one, however, of sod. The winter was quite severe and the cabin so open that snow and wind gained free access, and it frequently happened that the floor and bedding were deeply covered with snow. Wild game at this time was abundant, but soon disappeared owing to the rapid settlement of the county. Vermont then boasted of one store, and the future town of Astoria was then given over to the sturdy oak, under whose ample foliage the pioneer often rested from his labors. We cannot describe step by step the progress of **Mr. W.** from poverty to affluence. He labored diligently and uprightly and owes all that he has to his own efforts. His children are **Eliza J.**, **Priscilla E.**, **Margaret A.**, **Sarah C.**, **George H.**, **John B.**, **David T.** and **Henry L.**

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