

Edmond Elder

(1760/70–aft. 1841)

by Timothy Dean Hudson

Edmond Elder was born between 1760 and 1770 [1]. Nothing is known about her early life, including where he was born, the identities of his parents, or the name of his wife(s). By 1800, Edmond Elder had settled in Elbert County, Georgia, where he defaulted on his 1800 taxes as a resident of Capt. Burton's Militia District [2]. About 1803, Edmond registered for the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery as a resident of Elbert County. He drew two blanks in that lottery [3].

Edmond Elder appears to have moved across the county line into Oglethorpe County between 1804 and 1806, for in the latter year, he defaulted on his taxes in Capt. William Howell's Militia District [4]. By February 1808, Edmond had returned to Elbert County, when the Inferior Court selected him to serve on the jury [5].

We know little else about Edmond Elder's life in Elbert County between 1808 and 1820. In particular, we have no indication that he owned a farm there. In 1820, his household was listed in the general vicinity of that of his son-in-law, Richard Upshaw. Besides Edmond and his wife, both aged over forty-five years, his household included one male aged 10–16, one male aged 16–26, and two females aged 10–16 [6]. In the 1820 Georgia Land Lottery, Edmond Elder had two fortunate entries, drawing a 490-acre tract in Irwin County and a 250-acre tract in Walton County [7].

In 1821, Edmond Elder, his son, Littleberry Elder, and his son-in-law, Richard Upshaw, moved their families from Elbert to Walton County and settled on Edmond's new land. On 1 January 1822, Edmond Elder sold Littleberry Elder a 50-acre tract of his grant for \$500. Five months later, on May 8, Edmond Elder sold Richard Upshaw a 100-acre portion of his grant for \$300. Edmond Elder sold the remaining 100 acres of his grant to Littleberry Elder on 4 February 1823 for \$500 [8].

After 1823, it appears that Edmond Elder and his wife lived on the farm of his daughter and son-in-law, Rebecca and Richard Upshaw. In 1830, the households of Richard Upshaw and Edmond Elder adjoined [9]. On 30 September 1830, Edmond had a letter at the post office in Monroe, the county seat of Walton County. In October, the Monroe Post Office advertised for him to pick up the letter by the end of December or they would consider it a "*dead letter*" [10].

In 1831, Richard Upshaw and Edmond Elder both registered for the 1832 Gold Land Lottery as residents of Alberson's District, Walton County, Georgia. Both men had one fortunate draw each in that lottery, drawing a 40-acre lots in Cherokee County [11].

Richard Upshaw paid his 1834 taxes on his 100-acre farm in Walton County, but the following year on 2 October 1835, he sold his farm in Walton County to Joshua Callaway for \$384 [12]. Edmond Elder remained a resident of Walton County for several years after his son-in-law sold his farm. On 24 May 1836, Edmond sold the 40-acre tract he received in Cherokee County in the 1832 Gold Land Lottery to Isaac Sewell of Morgan County, Georgia for \$157 [13]. Then on 1 April 1837, Edmond Elder had a letter remaining in the Monroe Post Office in Walton County [14].

Between 1837 and 1840, Edmond Elder and his wife moved across the county line into Newton County, which adjoined Walton to the southwest. In 1840, they lived in their own household near that of James Elder, possibly one of their younger sons [15]. On 1 April 1841, Edmond Elder had a letter remaining in the Covington Post Office, Newton County, Georgia. During that month, the post office advertised that it would become a dead letter by July 1st [16].

These newspaper notices from April 1841 are the last known record of Edmond Elder. He was not living with his daughter, Rebecca Elder Upshaw, in Butler County, Alabama nor his son, Littleberry Elder, in Muscogee County, Georgia in 1850 [17]. All we know is that Edmond Elder and his wife died sometime after early 1841.

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Notes

1. 1830 Walton County GA Federal Census, p. 158, line #7: Edmund Elder. 1840 Newton County GA Federal Census, p. 19, #25: Edmond Elder. His age category was marked as aged 60–70 in 1830 and as aged 70–80 in 1840, putting his birth between 1760 and 1770.
2. *"The Augusta Chronicle and Gazette of the State"* (Augusta, GA), 6 December 1800, p. 3, column 3.
3. Graham, Paul K. 1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Persons Entitled to Draws. Decatur, GA: The Genealogy Company, 2005, p. 164.
4. *"Augusta Chronicle,"* 18 October 1806, p. 3, column 4.
5. Elbert County GA Inferior Court Minutes & Records, Book (1807-1815), p. 20 (LDS Film #008628621, Image #18).
6. 1820 Elbert County GA Federal Census, p. 162, #30: Richard Upshaw; p. 170, #14: Edward [sic] Elder.
7. Georgia Surveyor General, 1820 Lottery Grants, Irwin County, District 12, p. 273 (State of Georgia to Edmond Elder, Lot #158); 1820 Lottery Grants, Walton County, District 1, p. 168 (State of Georgia to Edmond Elder, Lot #42).
8. Walton County GA Deed Book C-D, pp. 49-50 (Edmond Elder to Littleberry Elder, 1 January 1822); Deed Book E, p. 45 (Edmond Elder to Richard Upshaw, 8 May 1822); Deed Book E, p. 153 (Edmond Elder to Littleberry Elder, 4 May 1823). It is not documented that Littleberry Elder is a son of Edmond Elder, but their association in these land transactions implies it.
9. 1830 Walton County GA Federal Census, p. 158, line #6: Richard Upshaw; line #7: Edmund Elder.
10. *"Southern Recorder"* (Milledgeville, GA), October 16 (p. 3, column 6), 23 (p. 1, column 1), and 30 (p. 1, column 1), 1830.
11. Georgia Surveyor General, 1832 Land Lottery Grants (Gold), Cherokee County, Section 2, District 2, Vol. 1, p. 464 (State of Georgia to Edmond Elder, Lot #782); Section 3, District 4, p. 72 (State of Georgia to Richard Upshaw, Lot #95).
12. 1834 Walton County GA Tax Digest, Capt. Henderson's District, p. 5, #4: Richard Upshaw. Walton County GA Deed Book L, p. 85 (Richard Upshaw to Joshua Callaway, 2 October 1835).
13. Cherokee County GA Deed Record D, pp. 489-490 (Edmond Elder to Isaac Sewell, 24 May 1836).
14. *"The Southern Banner"* (Athens, GA), April 8 (p. 3, column 4), 15 (p. 4, column 6), and 29 (p. 4, column 6), 1837.
15. 1840 Newton County GA Federal Census, p. 19, #25: Edmond Elder; #29: James Elder.
16. *"Federal Union"* (Milledgeville, GA), April 6 (p. 3, column 6), 20 (p. 4, column 3), and 27 (p. 4, column 3), 1841.
17. 1850 Butler County AL Federal Census, Township Seven, p. 246b, Household #39: Rebeca Upshaw. 1850 Muscogee County GA Federal Census, Russell's District, p. 360a, Household #119: L. B. Elder.

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