Rebecca Elder Upshaw

(1800/1805–aft. 1862)

Daughter of Edmund Elder,

Wife of Richard Upshaw Sr.

by Timothy Dean Hudson

Rebecca Elder was born between 1800 and 1805 in Elbert County Georgia, the daughter of Edmond Elder [1]. She married on 27 February 1820 in Elbert County to Richard Upshaw [2].

Rebecca Elder Upshaw's father, Edmond Elder, had two fortunate draws in the 1820 Georgia Land Lottery, drawing a 490-acre tract in Irwin County and a 250-acre tract in Walton County [3]. In 1821, both Rebecca Elder Upshaw and Edmond Elder moved their families from Elbert to Walton County and presumably settled on Elder's new land. On 1 January 1822, Edmond Elder sold his son, 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 tract of his grant for $300. Edmond Elder sold the remaining 100 acres of his grant to Littleberry Elder on 4 February 1823 for $500 [4].

After 1823, it appears that Edmond Elder and his wife lived on the farm of Rebecca and Richard Upshaw. In 1830, the households of Richard Upshaw and Edmond Elder adjoined [5]. 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 [6].

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. The next day, Richard witnessed a transaction between Joshua Phillips and Joshua Callaway [7].

It is not clear where Richard and Rebecca Upshaw went after selling their Walton County farm, since their household does not appear on Georgia’s 1840 Federal Census. The Richard Upshaw household on the 1840 Walton County Federal Census is not Richard and Rebecca’s, and it is presumably that of Richard Upshaw Jr. [8]. Since census records indicate that the birth of their youngest son, Jonathan W. Upshaw, occurred in Georgia about 1840, it appears they remained in Georgia until after 1840.

Richard Upshaw’s father-in-law, Edmond Elder, still resided in Walton County on 24 May 1836, when he sold his 40-acres in Cherokee County to Isaac Sewell of Morgan County, Georgia for $157

[9]. In 1840, Edmond Elder and his wife lived alone in their own household in Newton County, Georgia, which adjoined Walton to the southwest [10]. 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 [11]. The April 1841 newspaper notices are the last known records of Edmond Elder.

Since Elder lived with Richard and Rebecca, this suggests that the Upshaws remained in Walton County until at least the latter 1830s. Richard and Rebecca may have left Walton and settled on the land Richard drew in the 1832 Gold Lottery. Originally in Cherokee County, Richard's grant later fell into Bartow County. There is no record in either Cherokee or Bartow County of his disposing of this 40-acre tract.

During the 1840s, it appears that Rebecca and Richard Upshaw, together with his younger brother, Leroy Upshaw Jr., moved their families to Butler County, Alabama and settled on vacant government land then in Butler, but now in Crenshaw County. It appears that Richard Upshaw died in the 1840s, presumably after his arrival in Alabama. In 1850, the widowed Rebecca lived there with her younger children [12].

On 16 June 1856, Rebecca Elder Upshaw and her brother-in-law, Leroy Upshaw Jr., went to the Greenville Land Office and purchased the land on which they had settled several years earlier [13]. Rebecca must have previously purchased another 40-acre tract sometime between 1851 and 1856. On 10 September 1856, Rebecca Elder Upshaw sold her Butler County, Alabama farm for $400 to A. C. L. Davis, and followed her older sons, Alexander Wilson and William Elisha Upshaw, to Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana [14].

In 1860, Rebecca Elder Upshaw lived on land that her two sons, William Elisha and Jonathan W. Upshaw, purchased from her older son, Alexander Wilson Upshaw, in August 1860 [15].

Rebecca's younger two sons joined the Confederate military in 1861 and left for the war. In January 1862, the Union Parish Police Jury paid Rebecca $75 to help support her while her sons were away in the military [16]. Rebecca died sometime after January 1862.

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Children of Rebecca Elder & Richard Upshaw Sr.

Rebecca Elder married Richard Upshaw Sr. in 1820, and the 1830 federal census enumeration of their household in Walton County, Georgia indicates that they had four daughters born in the 1820s [17]. We have no record of any of those daughters. The known children of Richard Upshaw Sr. and Rebecca Elder come from the 1850 federal census listing of her household in Butler County, Alabama, and their close association with Alexander Wilson Upshaw after they moved to Union Parish, Louisiana strongly implies that he is also their son:

1. **Alexander Wilson Upshaw** (c1826–11 Feb 1883) married on 10 June 1847, presumably in Macon County, Alabama, to Zilleann Frances Barron (9 Nov 1824–c1895), daughter of Henry Barron (4 Aug 1803–7 Apr 1870) and Sarah Callaway (12 Jan 1802–28 Jun 1863). They moved to Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana in 1852 and farmed there until their deaths. Alexander Wilson Upshaw and Zilleann Frances Barron are buried in the Spearsville Cemetery.
2. **Edmond Upshaw** (c1830–aft. 1860) married in the 1850s to a woman only identified as *"M. E. Upshaw"* in 1860. She was born about 1837 in Alabama. It is not known what became of them after 1860, when they lived near Edmond's mother near Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
3. **William Elisha Upshaw** (28 Feb 1833–8 Jan 1882) married on 9 May 1864 in Union County, Arkansas to Laura Ann Rockett (13 Jun 1831–13 Jan 1867), daughter of James William Rockett (4 Jun 1792–22 Oct 1857) and Eudocia Holdombe (30 Oct 1809–23 Feb 1879). Laura was the widow of Alva Jackson Hunt (2 Apr 1826–5 Sep 1862). After Laura's death, William Elisha Upshaw married on 1 February 1868 in Union County, Arkansas to Julia Ann Garner (23 Dec 1836–23 Nov 1903), daughter of Thomas Jefferson Garner (15 Mar 1815–Mar 1878) and Elizabeth Kelly (c1813–aft. 1870). William Elisha Upshaw farmed near Spearsville, and both he and his wives are buried in the Spearsville Cemetery.
4. **Frances Upshaw** (c1834–aft. 1850) lived with her mother and brothers in 1850, but we have no further record of her. She could have married in Butler County, Alabama before they emigrated, or she could have moved with them and married in Louisiana.
5. **Jonathan W. Upshaw** (c1840–18 Jul 1862) enlisted with his brother in the Confederate Army in 1861. Details of his military service and wounding at the Battle of Secessionville in South Carolina in 1862 are provided in his biography. His body was buried in South Carolina, but there is a memorial marker erected for him in the Spearsville Cemetery, Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana.

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Notes

1. 1850 Butler County AL Federal Census, p. 246b, Dwelling #39: Rebeca Upshaw. 1860 Union Parish LA Federal Census, P.O. Spearsville, p. 612, Dwelling #685: Rebecca Upshaw; #703: M. E. Upshaw.
2. Elbert County GA Will Book L (1816-1821), p. 475; Marriages Box M1 (1818–1821), Images #436–437 (Richard Upshaw to Miss Rebecca Elder, 27 February 1820).
3. 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).
4. 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).
5. 1830 Walton County GA Federal Census, p. 158, line #6: Richard Upshaw; line #7: Edmund Elder.
6. 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).
7. 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); Deed Book L, p. 84 (Joshua Phillips to Joshua Callaway, 3 October 1835).
8. 1840 Walton County GA Federal Census, p. 120, #25: Richd Upshaw. This household consists of one male aged 30–40, and females aged 15–20, 20–30, 30–40, and 50–60. This is clearly not the household of Richard Upshaw Sr. and his second wife, Rebecca Elder Upshaw, as they had children born between 1820 and 1840, while this household has no young children.
9. Cherokee County GA Deed Record D, pp. 489–490 (Edmond Elder to Isaac Sewell, 24 May 1836).
10. 1840 Newton County GA Federal Census, p. 19, #25: Edmond Elder.
11. *"Federal Union"* (Milledgeville, GA), April 6 (p. 3, column 6), 20 (p. 4, column 3), and 27 (p. 4, column 3), 1841.
12. 1850 Butler County AL Federal Census, Township Seven, p. 246b, Dwelling #39: Rebeca Upshaw.
13. Greenville, Alabama Land Office Cash Entry #49865, Rebecca Upshaw, 16 June 1856, 39.79 acres: NW¼ of SE¼ of Section 10; Cash Entry #49886, Leroy Upshaw, 16 June 1856, 39.99 acres: SW¼ of NW¼ of Section 4; both in Township 8, Range 17.
14. Butler County AL Deed Book D, p. 286 (Rebecca Upshaw to A. C. L. Davis, 10 September 1856).
15. 1860 Union Parish LA Federal Census, P.O. Spearsville:
    p. 612, Dwelling #685: Rebecca Upshaw;
    p. 612, Dwelling #685: Rebecca Upshaw;
    p. 615, Dwelling #703: M. E. Upshaw [recording mistake; should be *"W. E. Upshaw"*].
    Union Parish LA Conveyance Book J, pp. 327–328 (Alexander Wilson Upshaw to William Elisha Upshaw and Jonathan Upshaw, 21 August 1860). Rebecca Upshaw's household was enumerated twice in 1860.
16. Union Parish LA Police Jury Minutes (1852–1869), p. 396.
17. 1830 Walton County GA Federal Census, p. 158, line #6: Richard Upshaw.

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