

ROBERT ELDER

The ancestral home of the Elder family is assumed to have been Elderslie, near Paisley in Renfrewshire, Scotland. Being about six miles from Glasgow. It was in this shire that the progenitor of the American family was born, about 1679. He moved to Lough Neagh, county Antrim, Ireland. The date of his arrival in Pennsylvania is unknown. But he died near Harrisburg, at seven o'clock July 28th, 1746 and is interred in an unmarked grave in the Paxtang Grave-Yard attached to the church where his son the famous "Fighting Parson" ministered for many years.

The wife of Robert Elder (immigrant) died Oct. 25th, 1742 at 8 o'clock at night. She is also buried in Paxtang graveyard.

(Above dates taken from a record of Parson Elder, kept in a vol. of Bishop Atterbury's sermons. Now in possession of Dauphin Co. His. S.)

Children of

1. Robert Elder and wife, Eleanor Elder.

b. 1679 (?) d. 1746 b. d. Oct. 1742

Robert b. 1704 died Path Valley 1807

John b. Jan. 26, 1706, d. July 17, 1792 Mar.

1st Mary Baker, 2nd Mary Simpson. He was known as the Fighting Parson of the French and Indian Wars. He was a graduate of the University of Edinburg and about 1735 followed his father to America. He accepted a call to Paxtang Church Apr. 12th, 1738 and remained with this church until his death. Rev. Elder was a born leader of men, and one of the strongest characters of early Provincial days.

The Paxtang church is still in use, although modernized. The holes used for gun holes are plastered up, but can be discerned by some persons.

Thomas b. 1708 mar. Mary Patterson. He died in Lancaster Co. David b. 1710

2. James b. 1712, came to America probably about 1752, mar. Elizabeth (said to have been Maips) b. 1714 d. 1816 at home of her son-in-law Robert Kerr, in Fannet twp. Franklin Co., Pa. James Elder d. 1816 in Fannet Twp. (Col. Robert Elder, son of Parson John Elder, always referred to this James Elder as his uncle.)

Ann b. 1713 supposed to have mar. J. Anderson.