

## **Gale, Edmund** <sup>[1]</sup>

## **Gale, Edmund**

by William S. Price, Jr., 1986; Revised by Jared Dease, Government and Heritage Library, December 2022

### **d. December 1738**

Edmund Gale, provincial official, was the son of Miles (1647–1721) and Margaret Stone Gale. His father, an Anglican clergyman, was rector of Keighley in Yorkshire, England; his mother was a daughter of the chancellor of York. The third of four sons, Edmund spent most of his life in the shadow of his eldest brother, Christopher.

Edmund first appears in North Carolina in 1715. By January of the following year he was serving in the *Assembly* <sup>[2]</sup>. He was again elected to the lower house in November 1723. Unquestionably Gale benefited from a name made prominent by his brother. During the early part of his life in the colony, he lived in Pasquotank Precinct and was named to the vestry of Southwest Parish there in 1715. In 1734, he purchased a house in *Edenton* <sup>[3]</sup> where he spent the rest of his life. As he grew older, Gale attained increasingly more significant political positions. He was treasurer of Pasquotank in 1720. In April 1722 he became a justice of the General Court and served for four years. Elevated to *Governor Richard Everard* <sup>[4]</sup>'s council in the summer of 1725, Gale remained a member for three years. In this position and because of his kinship with Christopher, he gained the enmity of *George Burrington* <sup>[5]</sup>. Robert Forster, the clerk of the council in the late Proprietary period, said in 1730 that he had heard Burrington promise revenge on certain councillors who had caused him trouble in 1725—Edmund Gale being one of those named. Yet when Burrington arrived in the colony to assume his duties as royal governor in February 1731, he and the younger Gale developed a growing friendship. One of the things that drew Burrington to Edmund was his opposition to *Edmund Porter*, <sup>[6]</sup> the unpopular vice-admiralty court judge. Gale and *John Lovick* <sup>[7]</sup> had led a group that violently disrupted Porter's court in January 1731. Burrington wished to remove Porter from the royal council and, through a questionable emergency appointment, elevated Gale to the council on 26 July 1731. Despite his difficulties with every other councillor seated in 1731, Burrington retained Gale until his own removal as governor in November 1734. Gale's tenure on the council ended at the same time.

Gale succeeded Edmund Porter as vice-admiralty court judge in January 1732, and he served as naval officer for the port of *Roanoke* <sup>[8]</sup> the following year. When Gale died in 1738, he left a widow, Mary, and two sons, Roger and Edmund. His will listed included the eleven people he enslaved, and his whole estate was valued in excess of £8,000.

### **References:**

William S. Price, Jr., "'Men of Good Estates': Wealth Among North Carolina's Royal Councillors," *North Carolina Historical Review* 49 (1972).

William L. Saunders, ed., *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vols. 1, 2 (1886).

Colonial Council Records and Secretary of State Papers (North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh).

### **Additional Resources:**

*North Carolina Genealogical Society journal*. The Society,. [https://digital.ncdcr.gov/documents?adv\\_title=genealogical&AND&searchtypes=Full%20text|Metadata&applyState=true](https://digital.ncdcr.gov/documents?adv_title=genealogical&AND&searchtypes=Full%20text|Metadata&applyState=true) <sup>[9]</sup> (accessed January 16, 2013).

N.C. Dept. of the Secretary of State. *Abstract of North Carolina wills*. Raleigh, E. M. Uzzell & co., state printers. 1910. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/abstract-of-north-carolina-wills/2148937?item=2227340> <sup>[10]</sup> (accessed January 16, 2013).

North Carolina booklet : great events in North Carolina history. North Carolina Society of the Daughters of the Revolution,. 1901; 1902; 1903; 1904; 1905; 1906; 1907; 1908; 1909; 1910; 1911; 1912; 1913; 1914; 1915; 1916; 1917; 1918; 1919; 1920; 1921. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/north-carolina-booklet-great-events-in-north-carolina-history-1908-april-v.7-no.4/413689> <sup>[11]</sup> (accessed January 16, 2013).

Minutes of the General Court of North Carolina, North Carolina. General Court July 28, 1724 - August 04, 1724 Volume 02, Pages 551-555. Documenting the American South, UNC Libraries: <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr02-0256> <sup>[12]</sup>

Petition from Edmund Porter concerning his suspension from the North Carolina Governor's Council, including supporting memoranda, Porter, Edmund, ca. 1685-1737, February 19, 1732, Volume 03, Pages 325-331. Documenting the American South, UNC Libraries: <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr03-0113> <sup>[13]</sup>

Historic Edenton and countryside, Edenton Woman's Club (N.C.), Eastern North Carolina Digital Library, ECU:

<https://digital.lib.ecu.edu/16986> [14]

"Christopher Gale Ca. 1679-1735." N.C. Highway Historical Marker B-5, N.C. Office of Archives & History.  
<https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=Markers&k=Markers&sv=B-5> [15] (accessed January 16, 2013).

**Subjects:**

[Biographies](#) [16]

[Public officials](#) [17]

[Religious Leaders and Clergy](#) [18]

**Authors:**

[Price, William S., Jr.](#) [19]

**Origin - location:**

[Edenton](#) [20]

**From:**

[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.](#) [21]

1 January 1986 | Price, William S., Jr.

---

**Source URL:** <https://ncpedia.org/biography/gale-edmund>

**Links**

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/gale-edmund> [2] <https://ncpedia.org/general-assembly> [3] <https://ncpedia.org/edenton> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/everard-richard> [5] <https://ncpedia.org/burrington-george> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/porter-edmund> [7] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/lovick-john> [8] <https://ncpedia.org/roanoke-island-first-english> [9] [https://digital.ncdcr.gov/documents?adv\\_title=genealogical&AND&searchtypes=Full%20text|Metadata&applyState=true](https://digital.ncdcr.gov/documents?adv_title=genealogical&AND&searchtypes=Full%20text|Metadata&applyState=true) [10] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/abstract-of-north-carolina-wills/2148937?item=2227340> [11] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/north-carolina-booklet-great-events-in-north-carolina-history-1908-april-v.7-no.4/413689> [12] <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr02-0256> [13] <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr03-0113> [14] <https://digital.lib.ecu.edu/16986> [15] <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=Markers&k=Markers&sv=B-5> [16] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term> [17] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/public-officials> [18] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/clergy> [19] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/price-jr-william-s> [20] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-56> [21] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no>