Wilber Putnam, one of the founders of Elton, arrived with his family in Jennings in 1888 when he was ten years old. He gives the following account:

"The Southern Pacific RR was built with chain gang, convict labor in 1883. Traffic began in 1884 (at which time) the town of Jennings was established.

"J. M. Henderson came from Des Moines, Iowa, in 1888, got land about twenty miles north of Jennings, started a store and established the Elton P.O. That must have been about 1891.

"There were three post offices on the route. Raymond was ten miles north of Jennings; China was fifteen miles north of Jennings; and Elton was twenty miles north of Jennings. The mail was carried on horseback twice a week. Later the carrier used a two-wheeled gig and carried a passenger at one dollar when he could get one.

"The present town was established in 1907 when the railroad was built through.

"J. M. Henderson was in the federal army, was captured and held in Libby prison. I have heard him tell about it. They were given three hardtack a day and given three days ration at a time, which would be nine hardtack. Most of the men were so hungry they sat right down and ate them all up at once. Mr. Henderson would break off a small piece and hold it in his mouth till it melted, then take another small piece. His greatest problem was to keep from having them stolen when he was asleep. J. M. Henderson was a large man weighing between 190 and 200. When freed from prison, he weighed ninety pounds."

The mayor of Elton, Allen Tremel, writes that "Elton, Louisiana, was named by J. M. Henderson, first postmaster, after the town of Elton, England."

—Clare D’Artois Leeper