

Vail, Edward ^[1]

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by William S. Smith, Jr., 1996

6 Aug. 1717–5 June 1777

See also: [Edenton Tea Party](#) ^[2]

Edward Vail, colonial official and member of a large and active family, joined his brother John in 1749 in petitioning the [Chowan County](#) ^[3] Court for permission to operate a mill near Sandy Point. Edward was one of six men who raised troops



Photograph of print of the Edenton Tea Party by Richardson, from the original engraving. Photograph by Wharton & Tyree Studios, Raleigh, NC, circa 1890-1910. Item H.1952.61.14, from the collections of the North Carolina Museum of History. Edward Vail's wife, Susannah, participated in the Edenton Tea Party of

in North Carolina in October 24, 1774.

^[4]1754 to help defend Virginia during the [French and Indian War](#) ^[5]; they were part of the first troops recruited in British America to fight outside their own territory in defense of a common cause. Vail also represented Chowan County in the [Assembly](#) ^[6] in 1754–62, 1770–71, and 1773–74. Locally he was a member of the county court in 1756 as well as one of five trustees named in 1767 to erect the brick courthouse in Edenton that still stands.

As a colonel, Vail accompanied Governor [William Tryon](#) ^[7] in the 1771 expedition against the [Regulators](#) ^[8]. With the approach of the [American Revolution](#) ^[9] he was one of eight members of the North Carolina [Committee of Correspondence](#) ^[10] in 1768, 1773, and 1774. Remaining active in the [militia](#) ^[11], Vail was appointed brigadier general of the [Edenton](#) ^[12] District in April 1776 and reelected within a month of his death.

Vail and his wife Susannah, whose maiden name is unknown, had four sons: Thomas, Frederick, Jeremiah, and Edward. Susannah was among the fifty-one "patriotic ladies" who participated in the [Edenton Tea Party](#) ^[2] on 24 Oct. 1774.

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Vail family Bible (possession of Lillian Smith Hough, Eden, N.C.).

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Image Credits:

"Photograph, Accession #: [H.1952.61.14](#)^[4]." 1890-1910. North Carolina Museum of History. (accessed March 21, 2014).

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Origin - location:

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[Edenton](#)^[25]

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