

## Vail, Edward <sup>[1]</sup>

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by William S. Smith, Jr., 1996

**6 Aug. 1717–5 June 1777**

See also: [Edenton Tea Party](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

Edward Vail, colonial official and member of a large and active family, joined his brother John in 1749 in petitioning the [Chowan County](#) <sup>[3]</sup> 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.

<sup>[4]</sup>1754 to help defend Virginia during the

[French and Indian War](#) <sup>[5]</sup>; 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](#) <sup>[6]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[7]</sup> in the 1771 expedition against the [Regulators](#) <sup>[8]</sup>. With the approach of the [American Revolution](#) <sup>[9]</sup> he was one of eight members of the North Carolina [Committee of Correspondence](#) <sup>[10]</sup> in 1768, 1773, and 1774. Remaining active in the [militia](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, Vail was appointed brigadier general of the [Edenton](#) <sup>[12]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[2]</sup> on 24 Oct. 1774.

### References:

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

*Virginia Gazette*, 19 July 1754<sup>[15]</sup>, 4 July 1767, 24 May 1770<sup>[16]</sup>, 3 Nov. 1774<sup>[17]</sup>.

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### Subjects:

[American Revolution \(1763-1789\)](#)<sup>[18]</sup>

[Biographies](#)<sup>[19]</sup>

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[Militias](#)<sup>[21]</sup>

[Public officials](#)<sup>[22]</sup>

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### Origin - location:

[Chowan County](#)<sup>[24]</sup>

[Edenton](#)<sup>[25]</sup>

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