

Vail, Edward ^[1]

Vail, Edward

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.

References:

John L. Cheney, Jr., ed., *North Carolina Government, 1585–1974* (1974).

J. R. B. Hathaway, ed., *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, vols. 1–2 (1900–1901).^[13]

William S. Powell, ed., *The Correspondence of William Tryon and Other Selected Papers*, vol. 2 (1981).

William L. Saunders, ed., *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vols. 5–7, 9–10 (1887–90).^[14]

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

Virginia Gazette, 19 July 1754^[15], 4 July 1767, 24 May 1770^[16], 3 Nov. 1774^[17].

Image Credits:

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

Subjects:

[American Revolution \(1763-1789\)](#)^[18]

[Biographies](#)^[19]

[Military personnel](#)^[20]

[Militias](#)^[21]

[Public officials](#)^[22]

Authors:

[Smith, William S., Jr.](#)^[23]

Origin - location:

[Chowan County](#)^[24]

[Edenton](#)^[25]

From:

[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography](#), University of North Carolina Press.^[26]

1 January 1996 | Smith, William S., Jr.

Source URL: <https://ncpedia.org/biography/vail-edward?page=0>

Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/vail-edward> [2] <https://ncpedia.org/edenton-tea-party-0> [3] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/chowan> [4] <http://collections.ncdcr.gov/RediscoveryProficioPublicSearch/ShowItem.aspx?40859+> [5] <https://ncpedia.org/french-and-indian-war> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/general-assembly> [7] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/tryon-william> [8] <https://ncpedia.org/history/colonial/regulator-movement> [9] <https://ncpedia.org/american-revolution> [10] <https://ncpedia.org/committees-correspondence> [11] <https://ncpedia.org/militias-colonial> [12] <https://ncpedia.org/edenton> [13] <https://archive.org/details/northcarolinahi00hathgoog> [14] <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/volumes> [15] <http://research.history.org/digitalibrary/VirginiaGazette/VGImagePopup.cfm?ID=1318&Res=HI> [16] <http://research.history.org/digitalibrary/VirginiaGazette/VGIssueThumbs.cfm?IssueIDNo=70.PD.11> [17] <http://research.history.org/digitalibrary/VirginiaGazette/VGIssueThumbs.cfm?IssueIDNo=74.PD.55> [18] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/us-revolution> [19] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term> [20] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/soldiers> [21] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/militia> [22] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/public-officials> [23] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/smith-william-s-jr> [24] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-38> [25] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-56> [26] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no>