Revolutionary War Veteran*
Stephen Yates, Sr.
Born 1746 Died 1836

YATES TAVERN

*__Stephen Yates, Sr. B. 1746 D. 1836__ - Buried in an unmarked grave at Yates Tavern (It is believed)

Samuel Yates

__SON__
__Samuel Yates__ B. 1776 D. 1858 - Buried at Yates Tavern- Engraving on gravestone is legible

__SON__
__Stephen Yates, Jr__. B. 1795 D. 1854 - Buried in an unmarked grave at Yates Tavern (It is believed)

David Terry Yeatts

SON
David Terry Yates B. 1820 D. 1895- Buried near the Hollywood Road west of Chatham. The gravesite is carefully maintained.

SON
Coleman Bennett Yeatts B. 1858 D. 1907- Buried in the Danville Hyland Burial Park

It is difficult to know the exact time of the Yates coming to what is now known as Pittsylvania County. Halifax County records show a survey of 116 acres on a ridge between Dan & Sandy Rivers for John Yates recorded on March 29, 1748. The sparse record also states that in 1753 a John Yates was required to help clear a roadway near his home.

YATES TAVERN

Another instance of early settlement of the Yates was the building of the Yates Tavern. It was built about 1750. Historians have written that this location was considered frontier territory. Indians were a menace to the settlers which some people believed to be the reason for building the tavern with its architecture that is different from other buildings. In the Court Order Book of 1778 it is referred to as, " Yates Old House. Early records show that the owner, Stephen Yates, paid taxes to keep a tavern or ordinary, as it was called at that time. During at least a part of Stephen Yates' life he served as a Captain in the Virginia Militia. It is not known if he served in an active military way in defense of the new nation.

Up until the mid-1970's, local writers had been referring to the tavern as the Yates Blockhouse. It was believed the overhangs were the same feature used in pioneer log structures to provide a protected slit above the first story for firing down on attackers.

This description was disputed by the architects in the landmark's office in Richmond when the landmark status was sought in 1976. The architects pointed out that in this case the tavern is a frame structure, not log, and the overhang is technically a jetty, such as was used in London to overhang the sidewalk and thus provide a little extra room on the second floor of a townhouse. In effect, this is a fashionable little London townhouse, built out in the very rural landscape of Pittsylvania County. The architects thought it likely was a stylish house rather than a crude frontier fortified house.

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The Yates Tavern was located on a much traveled road that led from Peytonsburg, the county seat of Halifax County, Virginia to other communities. It was also a stopping place for men who traveled by wagons throughout the area seeking materials to be taken to the supply depot at Peytonsburg to be distributed to the Virginia Militia and to the Continental Army.

Peytonsburg was designated as one of nine supply depots in Virginia during the Revolutionary War. It was here that factories made horseshoes, canteens, and other items for soldiers were manufactured along with shops for smiths to shoe horses, repair wagons, and other equipment needed for war. It was from **Peytonsburg** that wagons and team drivers spread throughout the communities seeking supplies for the desperate soldiers serving on active duty in the Continental Army and in the Virginia Militia. **Peytonsburg**, a town established in 1759, was laid out on one-hundred acres of land that is located just across the Halifax County line on Highway 832. It was the county seat for Halifax County. Now, Peytonsburg is no more. There is not a trace to be found of this once thriving town that contributed so much to winning the independence of people who believed that America could rule itself better and fairer than England.

In 1767 Pittsylvania County was formed out of Halifax and its county seat became Callands, due to a large land area west of what is now Pittsylvania County. When counties such as Henry County west of Callands were formed, the county seat was moved to Chatham since that would place the county seat more in the center of the county.

It was in this setting that Stephen Yates was declared a Patriot of the Revolutionary War. He contributed as a citizen soldier toward winning the war by providing shelter, food, and other essentials to wagon masters and teams of horses and mules that traveled by his place carrying wagon after wagon loads of food, clothing, and equipment to war weary soldiers.

The Stephen Yates' contribution to the Revolutionary War is recognized by the United States of America and is a matter of record in the State Auditor's Office in Richmond, Virginia.

Source:
The *History of Pittsylvania*, Maude Clement, 1929
An *Intimate History of the American Revolution*
In Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Frances Hallam Hurt,1976
The *Junction-Elba-Gretna, Virginia*, Estelle Ironmonger Tyler, 1990
Footprints from the Old Survey Books of Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties in Virginia
Henry Mitchell, Pittsylvania County Historian

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