

## **Goss, George**

George Goss was born circa 1728 in Strasburg, Germany, which is in France now. His last name may have been "Coas" at that time. George lived in Pennsylvania before 1776. After his two eldest sons were killed during the Wyoming Massacre in 1778, he enlisted in the Continental Army as a Private in the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment and went to New Jersey.

He was older than most Revolutionary War soldiers, being in his late 40's when he enlisted in the Continental Army, where he served for four years.

After having returned home for a while, he went back to the army in New Jersey with his remaining son, Abraham. George taught Abraham to be a fifer. It is felt that George probably taught many young men to be fifers as they were needed to help direct the soldiers during battle. The sound of the fifes were able to be heard above the noise of battle. Fifes & drums were used to issue commands while in battle. George was said to be very short -- five feet 1 1/2 inches tall -- so perhaps fifing and drumming were things that he could contribute to the army's efforts in his later years.

George married Elizabeth and had three sons, George Jr., Jacob, and Abraham. They lived in Northumberland County, PA. He then enlisted in the army. He probably died about 1780 near Philadelphia and is believed to have been killed in battle.