Francis Summit (1741-1818)

(Johanne Franz Sammet)

**Abstract**

When Francis SUMMIT was born in 1741 in Philadelphia, Brandenburg, Germany, his father, Jacob, was 31 and his mother, Rosina, was 27. He married Dolly DOE in 1768 in Lincolnton, North Carolina. They had 12 children in 28 years. He died on February 27, 1818, in Conover, North Carolina, having lived a long life of 77 years, and was buried there.

*Birth: 1741; Philadelphia, Oder-Spree, Brandenburg, Germany; Marriage: 1768; Lincolnton, Lincoln, North Carolina, USA; Residence: 1800; Lincoln, North Carolina; Residence: 1810; Capt Lawrances District, Lincoln, North Carolina, United States; Residence: 1810; Capt Lawrances District, Lincoln, North Carolina, United States; Death: 27 Feb 1818; Conover, Lincoln, North Carolina, United States, Age at Death: 77; Burial: Conover, Catawba County, North Carolina, USA; Residence: Lincoln County, NC*

**Birth**

Francis SUMMIT was born in Philadelphia, Brandenburg, Germany, in 1741 to Rosina Anna Barbera SCHOLL, age 27, and Jacob SAMMET, age 31[[1]](#footnote-1). A bustling city with a rich history and diverse population in 1741, Philadelphia was under the rule of Frederick II, also known as Frederick the Great. He was a progressive monarch who encouraged religious tolerance and promoted economic growth. Philadelphia benefited from this environment, attracting people from various backgrounds, including Germans, Jews, French Huguenots, and others. The French Huguenots, who had fled religious persecution, also found a haven in Philadelphia. German settlers formed most of the population, bringing their traditions and language. The Jewish community, which had a long history in the region, contributed to the city's vibrant cultural tapestry.

Located in the northeastern part of Germany, Philadelphia was a significant trading center and a hub of cultural exchange. The strategic location the city on the River Havel made it an important trading center. It thrived economically, with industries such as textiles, brewing, and shipbuilding flourishing. The presence of skilled craftsmen and merchants also contributed to the city's prosperity[[2]](#footnote-2).

Also in 1741, in the War of the Austrian Succession, Prussia defeated Austria in the Battle of Mollwitz.  French troops attacked the Rhine. [Elizabeth of Russia](https://www.onthisday.com/people/elizabeth-of-russia) seized power in a coup with the aid of Imperial Russian guards in Saint Petersburg, Russia, becoming Tsarina of Russia. The French and Beiers army occupied Prague. Prussian forces took Olmutz, Czechoslovakia[[3]](#footnote-3).

Francis’s brother Johann Conrad SAMMETwas born in Moenchberg, Jagst, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany on July 11, 1742, when Francis was 1[[4]](#footnote-4). Johann Conrad’s twin sister Maria Cathrina SAMMET was christened on July 14[[5]](#footnote-5). The year, Prussia led by [Frederick the Great](https://www.onthisday.com/people/frederik-the-great) defeats Austria at the Battle of Chotusitz. Later, Maria Theresa of Austria and Prussian King [Frederick the Great](https://www.onthisday.com/people/frederik-the-great) signed a peace treaty in Berlin. Prussia and Great Britain signed an anti-French military covenant. Empress Elisabeth orders expulsion of all Jews from Russia[[6]](#footnote-6).

Francis’s father Jacob Sammet is listed as arriving on the Ship Beulah from Rotterdam, Netherlands, with his family in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 10, 1753[[7]](#footnote-7). That year philosopher [Voltaire](https://www.onthisday.com/people/voltaire) left the court of Frederik II of Prussia. King Louis XV disbanded the French parliament. Austria, Great Britain and Modena signed a secret military treaty. The British parliament grants Jews citizenship[[8]](#footnote-8).

Francis’s sister Rosannah was born in Berkes Pennsylvania in 1754, when Francis was 13[[9]](#footnote-9).

In 1754, the area that became Berks County, Pennsylvania was a frontier region in the British colonies, marked by a diverse population, a rugged landscape, and an economy largely based on agriculture. Berks County was officially established in 1752, just two years before, from parts of Chester, Lancaster, and Philadelphia counties. Its name was derived from Berkshire, England, in honor of William Penn's family roots.

The county’s early settlers were primarily German immigrants, including large numbers of Mennonites, Lutherans (as was Jacob Sammet and his family), and members of the Moravian Church. Religious life was central to the community. Churches often served as social and cultural centers, and different sects established their own meeting houses and schools. Keep in mind, much of the religious diversity that existed was within the Christian Protestant variety.

These settlers were part of what was known as the "Pennsylvania Dutch" community, which also included Swiss and other central European groups. There were also English, Irish, and Scots-Irish settlers, but German was the dominant language and culture in the region. Native American tribes such as the Lenape (or Delaware) lived in or traveled through the area, although by 1754, relations were becoming strained due to increased European settlement and the ongoing pressures of colonial expansion.

Berks County was mostly forested, with fertile valleys along the Schuylkill River and its tributaries, which provided transportation and water for mills. Settlers used this river system for transport, but many roads were still little more than trails. Settlements were scattered, with clusters of farmsteads and small villages like Reading, which had been laid out as the county seat when Berks County was founded.

Agriculture was the foundation of life in Berks County, with settlers primarily growing grains (like wheat, rye, and corn), raising livestock, and producing food for both subsistence and trade. Farming was labor-intensive and community based. Crafts and trades also developed to support the farming community. These included blacksmithing, carpentry, milling, and other skills vital to frontier life. Small-scale industries began to appear, like sawmills and gristmills along local streams, which were essential for processing wood and grain.

Education was generally informal, though some communities organized basic schools for reading, writing, and arithmetic, often conducted in German. Moravians and other religious groups were active in setting up schools as part of their missions.

The region was affected by the early events of the French and Indian War (1754-1763), which heightened tensions on the frontier. The French, who controlled lands to the west, allied with several Native American groups against British colonial expansion, creating a volatile environment. Colonists in Berks County and other frontier areas were wary of attacks, leading to the eventual formation of local militias to protect settlers. Berks County’s early settlers tried to maintain trading relationships with Native Americans, but tensions were growing as settlers moved further into traditional Native territories. By 1754, skirmishes and mistrust were increasing, partly fueled by the French and Indian War.

When Rosannah was born, Berks County was a community in transition, combining rugged frontier life with emerging small towns and agricultural villages. It was a place where diverse cultures met, and the lives of settlers were shaped by their environments, religious beliefs, and the political turmoil of the time[[10]](#footnote-10).

Francis travelled down the Appalachian Trail from Pennsylvania to North Carolina sometime before 1768. He married Dolly DOE in Tyron County, North Carolina, in 1768 when she was 13 and he was 27[[11]](#footnote-11). That year, [Samuel Adams](https://www.onthisday.com/people/samuel-adams) published a letter that became known as the Massachusetts Circular Letter that was circulated around American colonies opposing the Townshend Act taxes. [John Hancock](https://www.onthisday.com/people/john-hancock) refused to allow two British customs agents to go below deck of his ship. This was considered the first act of physical resistance to British authority in the colonies. Hancock the paid duties on 25 pipes of wine. This was only one fourth of his ship's carrying capacity. British officials accused him of unloading the rest during the night to avoid paying duties on the entire cargo. The customs officials the seized his ship, "The Liberty", on the suspicion that Hancock had illegally unloaded cargo without paying duties. Riot brook out in Boston after the sloop was seized. British troops under General Thomas Gage then landed in Boston[[12]](#footnote-12).

Francis Summit probably settled on about 150 acres of land in the Leepers/Killian Creek area of Tyron County, North Carolina about 1769 on land that belonged to Charles and Robert Abernathy.  The deed from Charles and Robert Abernathy to Francis Summit was executed and recorded April 1, 1789, but it was not uncommon in those early days for German immigrants to settle on land without the formalities of ownership.  Shortly after Francis executed the deed for the Abernathy tract, he obtained another 150 acres or so by grant dated May 18, 1789, from the State of North Carolina abutting his already owned land.  His neighbors as noted in the 1789 land grant were John Sutton, John Devault, and George Kominger (probably Cloninger)[[13]](#footnote-13).

Francis’s son Christian, named after Francis’s older brother, was born on May 30, 1769, in Tyron County, North Carolina[[14]](#footnote-14). The older brother Christian would end up settling in Kentucky[[15]](#footnote-15) while the son would end up settling in Indiana[[16]](#footnote-16). American frontiersman [Daniel Boone](https://www.onthisday.com/people/daniel-boone) ascended Pilot Knob and set sight on the fertile hunting grounds of what is now known as the Bluegrass Region of the State of Kentucky[[17]](#footnote-17).

Francis’s son Jacob was born in 1770 in Tyron County, North Carolina[[18]](#footnote-18). That year, the Boston Massacre (also known as the Incident on King Street) saw British soldiers kill 5 men in a crowd who were throwing snowballs, stones and sticks at them. African American [Crispus Attucks](https://www.onthisday.com/people/crispus-attucks) was the first to die. Later, Attucks held up as early black martyr. The massacre galvanized anti-British feelings in the colonies. Meanwhile, in England, the British parliament repealed the Townshend Revenue Acts, which had fueled much of the opposition to British rule in colonial America. Quakers opened a school for blacks in Philadelphia. At the Battle of Kagul, a smaller Russian army defeated a larger Ottoman and Cossack force in Moldavia. This was the major land battle of the Russo-Turkish War and one of the largest battles of the 18th century[[19]](#footnote-19).

Francis’s daughter Margaret was born in Iredell, Lincoln County, North Carolina on September 19, 1780[[20]](#footnote-20). He was 39. His mother Rosina Anna Barbera passed away in Maidencreek, Berkes County, Pennsylvania, at the age of 66[[21]](#footnote-21). [George Washington](https://www.onthisday.com/people/george-washington)'s army at Morristown, New Jersey, was hit by a snowstorm earlier that year. The American Continental Congress establishes court of appeals. Pennsylvania became the first US state to abolish slavery (for newborns only). American General [Benjamin Lincoln](https://www.onthisday.com/people/benjamin-lincoln) surrendered Charleston, South Carolina to the British. At the Battle of Waxhaw Creek, Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton's troops allegedly massacred 113 of Colonel Abraham Buford's continentals after the continentals raised a white flag. The Battle of Springfield was fought in and around Springfield, New Jersey. The [comte de Rochambeau](https://www.onthisday.com/people/comte-de-rochembeau) and his French force of 7,000 landed at Newport, Rhode Island, to join the American Revolutionary War. British decisively defeated the Americans at the Battle of Camden, South Carolina.

Francis was granted a 9 pounds, 4 shillings payment out of the North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts effective July 4, 1782, with interest of 14 shillings 6 pence to October 29, 1783, for a total payment of 9 pounds, 18 shillings, and 6 pence.  It’s unknown what Francis did for this payment.  It may have been for furnishing some goods, services, or the use of land.  Lincoln County was in the general path of British General Cornwalis' march northward from South Carolina to Virginia late in the war and not far from the site of the famous battle of King's Mountain[[22]](#footnote-22).

It was also in 1782 that Francis’s father Jacob died in what would later become West Virginia. Jacob was 72[[23]](#footnote-23). That year [Robert Morris](https://www.onthisday.com/people/robert-morris), Superintendent of Finance, recommended that the U.S. Congress establish a decimal coinage and a national mint. The British garrison in Menorca in the western Mediterranean surrendered to a French and Spanish fleet as part of the American Revolutionary War. An Ohio militia killed 90 Native Americans in what became known as the Gnadenhutten Massacre. [John Adams](https://www.onthisday.com/people/john-adams) secured the Dutch Republic's recognition of the United States as an independent government. The house he purchased in The Hague became America's first embassy. The US Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States of America with the bald eagle as its symbol. The Commander of the Continental Army, [George Washington](https://www.onthisday.com/people/george-washington), created two Honorary Badges of Distinction and a Badge of Military Merit (now the Purple Heart). This was the first time military awards were presented to common soldiers. Fifty Loyalists and 300 Indigenous warriors ambushed and routed 182 Kentucky militiamen, including [Daniel Boone](https://www.onthisday.com/people/daniel-boone), in Kentucky County, Virginia, in the Battle of Blue Licks, one of the last battles of the American Revolutionary War. At the Battle of the Combahee River near Beaufort, South Carolina, American abolitionist [John Laurens](https://www.onthisday.com/people/john-laurens) was killed leading the charge. Britain signed the agreement that recognized US independence. The British evacuated Charleston, South Carolina[[24]](#footnote-24).

Francis’s son Francis Jr. was born in 1783 in Lincoln County, North Carolina[[25]](#footnote-25). Spain and Sweden recognized US Independence that year. Hostilities formally ceased in the American Revolutionary War after the Continental Congress proclaimed the "Cessation of Arms" ending the seven-year-long war against His Britannic Majesty. The Treaty of Paris was signed in Paris ending the American Revolutionary War between Great Britain and the United States of America. [George Washington](https://www.onthisday.com/people/george-washington) ordered the Continental Army disbanded. Annapolis, Maryland, became the first US capital (until June 1784). The British army evacuated New York City, it’s last military position in the United States[[26]](#footnote-26).

Francis’s daughter Dorothy "Dolly" was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina in 1785[[27]](#footnote-27). The Continental Congress convened in New York City. The US Congress unanimously resolved the name of US currency to the "dollar" and adopted decimal coinage. Prussia signed a trade agreement with the US. The Treaty of Hopewell was signed between the Confederation Congress of the United States of America and the Cherokee people[[28]](#footnote-28).

His daughter Betsy was born in 1787 in Lincoln, North Carolina.

**1787**

Age 46

**Birth of son**

His son John was born in 1787 in Lincoln, North Carolina.

**[John SUMMIT](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307478)**

[1787–1851](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307478)

**abt 1787 • Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

* abt

**1788**

Age 47

**Birth of daughter**

His daughter Martha Elizabeth was born in 1788 in Lincoln, North Carolina.

**[Martha Elizabeth SUMMITT](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307489)**

[1788–1849](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307489)

**abt 1788 • Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

* 24 Mar

**1790**

Age 49

**Birth of son**

His son Henry was born on March 24, 1790, in Lincoln, North Carolina.

**[Henry SUMMIT](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307496)**

[1790–1845](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307496)

**24 Mar 1790 • Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

* **1793**

Age 52

**Birth of daughter**

His daughter Mary Magdaline "Polly" was born in 1793 in Lincoln, North Carolina.

**[Mary Magdaline "Polly" SUMMIT](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307510)**

[1793–1850](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307510)

**1793 • Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

* 5 Apr

**1795**

Age 54

**Birth of son**

His son Daniel was born on April 5, 1795, in Lincoln, North Carolina.

**[[A blurry image of a person's face

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**[Daniel SUMMIT Sr](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367252042)**

[1795–1838](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367252042)

**5 Apr 1795 • Lincoln County, North Carolina, United States**

* **1797**

Age 56

**Birth of daughter**

His daughter Catherine was born in 1797 in Lincoln, North Carolina.

**[Catherine SUMMIT](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307541)**

[1797–1832](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307541)

**1797 • Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

* **1800**

Age 59

Edit

**Residence**

Francis SUMMIT lived in Lincoln, North Carolina, in 1800.

**1800 • Lincoln, North Carolina**

Beta Tell me something about living in North Carolina, USA at this time.

**Beta**

Tell me something about living in North Carolina, USA at this time.

Ask AncestryAI

* **1810**

Age 69

Edit

**Residence**

Francis SUMMIT lived in Lincoln, North Carolina, in 1810.

**1810 • Capt Lawrances District, Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

Beta Tell me something about living in North Carolina, USA at this time.

**Beta**

Tell me something about living in North Carolina, USA at this time.

Ask AncestryAI

* **1810**

Age 69

Edit

**Residence**

Francis SUMMIT lived in Lincoln, North Carolina, in 1810.

**1810 • Capt Lawrances District, Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

Beta Tell me something about living in North Carolina, USA at this time.

**Beta**

Tell me something about living in North Carolina, USA at this time.

Ask AncestryAI

* abt

**1815**

Age 74

**Death of brother**

His brother Christian died in 1815 in Nicholas, Kentucky, when Francis was 74 years old.

**[Christian SUMMIT](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367206423)**

[1733–1815](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367206423)

**abt 1815 • Nicholas, Kentucky, United States**

* 27 Feb

**1818**

Age 77

Edit

**Death**

Francis SUMMIT died on February 27, 1818, in Conover, North Carolina, when he was 77 years old.

Age at Death: 77

**27 Feb 1818 • Conover, Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

Beta What was Conover, North Carolina, USA like at this time?

**Beta**

What was Conover, North Carolina, USA like at this time?

Ask AncestryAI

* Edit

**Burial**

**Conover, Catawba County, North Carolina, USA**

* Edit

**Residence**

Francis SUMMIT lived in Lincoln, North Carolina.

**Lincoln County, NC**

1. Web: North Carolina, Find A Grave Index, 1729-2011: <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=websearch-4118&h=39600&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ancestry AI [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1741 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Geneanet Community Trees Index: <https://gw.geneanet.org/kgolden1?n=sammet&oc=&p=johann+conrad> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Württemberg, Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1500-1985 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1742 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s: <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=pili354&h=3466540&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1753 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Web: Kentucky, Find A Grave Index, 1776-2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. ChatGPT [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Geneanet Community Trees Index: <https://gw.geneanet.org/addettergen?n=abernathy+or+doe&oc=&p=dorothea+dolly> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1768 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. “Francis Summit and Family.” Paul C. Summitt. http://www.ncgenweb.us/catawba/summitt/summit4.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Web: Indiana, Find A Grave Index, 1800-2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Residence date: 1769-1831 Residence place: Kentucky, USA: Petitions of the early inhabitants of Kentucky to the General Assembly of Virginia : 1769-1792: <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=genealogy-glh29122230&h=243&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. 1830 US Census; Census Place: Monroe, Indiana; Page: 145; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 30; Family History Film: 0007719 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1769 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Geneanet Community Trees Index: <https://gw.geneanet.org/srice?n=summit&oc=&p=jacob> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1770 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. 1850 United States Federal Census: Year: 1850; Census Place: Catawba, North Carolina; Roll: M432\_624; Page: 274B; Image: 27 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Geneanet Community Trees Index: <https://gw.geneanet.org/rebeckahsorensen?n=scholl&oc=&p=rosina+anna+barbera> [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. “Francis Summit and Family.” Paul C. Summitt. http://www.ncgenweb.us/catawba/summitt/summit4.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367235147/facts [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1782 [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Family Data Collection - Individual Records [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1783 [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Web: North Carolina, Find A Grave Index, 1716-2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1785 [↑](#footnote-ref-28)