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 SUMMIT 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’s son Christian, named after Francis’s older brother, was born on May 30, 1769, in Tyron County, North Carolina[[13]](#footnote-13). The older brother Christian would end up settling in Kentucky[[14]](#footnote-14) while the son would end up settling in Indiana[[15]](#footnote-15). 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[[16]](#footnote-16).

Francis’s son Jacob was born in 1770 in Tyron County, North Carolina[[17]](#footnote-17). 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[[18]](#footnote-18).

His daughter Margaret was born in Iredell, Lincoln County, North Carolina on September 19, 1780[[19]](#footnote-19).

**[Margaret SUMMIT](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307448)**

[1780–1868](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307448)

**19 Sep 1780 • Iredell, Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

* **1780**

Age 39

**Death of mother**

His mother Rosina Anna Barbera passed away in 1780 in Maidencreek, Pennsylvania, at the age of 66.

**[Rosina Anna Barbera SCHOLL](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/20383408236)**

[1714–1780](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/20383408236)

**1780 • Maidencreek, Berks, Pennsylvania, United States**

* abt

**1782**

Age 41

**Death of father**

His father Jacob passed away in 1782 in West Virginia at the age of 72.

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**[Jacob SAMMET](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367235147)**

[1710–1782](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367235147)

**abt 1782 • Present Day, West Virginia, United States**

* abt

**1783**

Age 42

**Birth of son**

His son Francis was born in 1783 in Lincoln, North Carolina.

**[Francis SUMMIT Jr.](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307452)**

[1783–1869](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307452)

**abt 1783 • Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

* abt

**1785**

Age 44

**Birth of daughter**

His daughter Dorothy "Dolly" was born in 1785 in Lincoln, North Carolina.

**[Dorothy "Dolly" SUMMIT](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307460)**

[1785–1862](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307460)

**abt 1785 • Lincoln, North Carolina, United States**

* abt

**1787**

Age 46

**Birth of daughter**

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

**[Betsy SUMMIT](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307485)**

[1787–](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/15293711/person/367307485)

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

* abt

**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. Web: Indiana, Find A Grave Index, 1800-2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. 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-14)
15. 1830 US Census; Census Place: Monroe, Indiana; Page: 145; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 30; Family History Film: 0007719 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1769 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Geneanet Community Trees Index: <https://gw.geneanet.org/srice?n=summit&oc=&p=jacob> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1770 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. 1850 United States Federal Census: Year: 1850; Census Place: Catawba, North Carolina; Roll: M432\_624; Page: 274B; Image: 27 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)