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From The Editor:

With this issue we begin something that we hoped would be a regular aspect of this newsletter from the beginning. Paul C. Summitt joins us this issue with Part 1 of his article on Francis Summitt (Franz Sammet). Paul's article is titled "Preliminary Comment on Francis Summit & Family."

On a personal note, our book *Creating Cool 3D Web Worlds with VRML* has hit the bookstores. We received our first copy December 16th. We're very happy to see how it turned out. We've already signed a contract with IDG books for our second book. Be looking for it in April.

Those of you interested in computers and the World Wide Web will be interested to note that the *Summitt Quarterly Newsletter* now has its own Web page. Point your Web browser at **http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/PSummitt**. We'll be expanding these pages and putting pictures and genealogies up on the web as we get time and space. Those of you jacked into cyberspace can send us e-mail at 76270.551@CompuServe.com. Also, those of you interested and who are CompuServe members can help develop this electronic form of the newsletter.

Sincerely

Paul M. Summitt

PRELIMINARY COMMENT ON FRANCIS SUMMIT & FAMILY- Part 1

ALSO KNOWN AS JOHANNES FRANTZ SAMMET

BORN FEBRUARY 1741 — DIED FEBRUARY 17, 1818

BY PAUL C. SUMMITT

Note: This paper is designed to provide an much information as possible on the early North Carolina line of Summits as a basis for further research, as well as to provide the foundation upon which living Summitts may trace their own lineage backward. Numerous individuals have contributed to this information. Especially helpful have been Mark Smith, historian for the St. John's Lutheran Church in Conover, North Carolina, Evelyn D. Rhodes, genealogy services librarian with the Catawba County library in Newton, North Carolina, Lorene Eaker, author of "German Speaking People West of the Catawba River—1750-1800" in Church Hill, Tennessee, Harless Brakebill in Monroe County, Tennessee, LaRue Summit Williford in Houston, Helen Summitt Galyon in Sweetwater, Tennessee and her sister, Flora Mae Keene in Knoxville, James Bruce Summitt in San Antonio, and the wife of Daniel W. Summitt, Helen Summitt in Plainfield, Indiana.

FRANCIS SUMMITT

The Summitt Name

For many years, researchers of the Summitt line seemed to assume the family was of English heritage related to the normal English meaning of "highest point, part, or elevation" as with the top of a mountain. This view was shattered with the discovery of the German Lutheran heritage of Summitts in Eastern Tennessee and Central Indiana. These Tennessee and Indiana Summitts turned out to be directly related to a Francis Summit who settled in the Tyron County area of North Carolina in the latter part of the 1700s, later to become Lincoln County and then Catawba County. In modern terms, this area is

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Northwest of Charlotte in the area of towns of Hickory, Newton, Lincolnton, and Conover and crossed Southwest to Northeast by Interstate 40.

Francis Summit and his family was apparently the only Summit family in this community. They were a part of a growing German community in North Carolina settling west of the Catawba River and from all appearances were devoted Lutherans from the beginning. **(1)** As often happened when continental Europeans found themselves in the English colonies, the names took on a variety of spellings as they appeared in English official records, often in not so successful phonetic replications, or in their native language journals and records. The early records relating to Francis Summit and his family give an example of these variation as follows:

Frantz (cis) Sammet — Tombstone old German script located in the St. John's Lutheran Cemetery North of Conover, North Carolina.

Francis Summat (Ger Johannes Frantz (cis) Samet) — Surety for marriage bond for his daughter identified as Magdlin, Summit to Jacob Thronbarg (Ger Dronbarger, Jacob) dated 25 July 1813; witnessed by Philip Henkel (brother of David Henkel, Pastor for the St. John's Lutheran Church at the time) (Bynum, "Marriage Bonds of Tryon and Lincoln Counties North Carolina").

Johannes Frantz/Francis Summit, Lorena Shell Eaker, "German Speaking People West of the Catawba River in North Carolina 1750 - 1800", p. 447.

Francis Summit, the form used almost uniformly throughout the estate records and the surname in recording the name of the deceased, his widow, and his children.

Fras Summit — Revolutionary War Account records of North Carolina (1782).

Frank Summit — 1790 Census for North Carolina in Lincoln County.

Francis Summit —1800 Census for North Carolina in Lincoln County.

Francis Summit — 1810 Census for North Carolina in Lincoln County.

Francis Sommit, Surety for marriage bond for his son identified as **Daniel Sommit** to Sally Moser dated 3 December 1813, witnessed by Philip Henkel (brother of David Henkel, Pastor for the St. John's Lutheran Church at the time) (Bynum, "Marriage Bonds of Tryon and Lincoln Counties North Carolina").

Daniel Summit, clear inscription on the tombstone of the son of **Francis Summit** in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Old Cemetery, Monroe County Tennessee

Daniel Sammit, Daniel Sammet, John Sammet, Christian Sammet — forms of the name of individuals known to have been Francis' sons found in various St. John'sLutheran Church and Green County Tennessee Lutheran records apparently recorded in German.

This author has concluded that the German name of the above individual was Johannes Frantz Sammet and the English version was Francis Summit. It is likely that the old German script form on the tombstone of "tz" is a German form of "cis" and thus "Francis". The German name "Sammet" apparently means "velvet". This German spelling of the name is particularly important to family researchers since it is probable that the first immigrant(s) in this family entered the port of Philadelphia under the name "Sammet" and use the name in Lutheran records.

It has not been determined exactly who, and whether with collaboration and communication to other branches of the family, decided the "Summit" name should acquire the second "t" to become "Summitt". On the tombstones in the Old St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Monroe County, Tennessee, the tombstones of Daniel, the youngest son of Francis, and his wife have the name spelled "Summit", as did the author's great, great grandfather, Jonathan. On the other hand, the tombstones of three sons of Daniel— Eusebius, Joseph, and Peter—have the name spelled "Summitt". A similar phenomena occurred with the Indiana Summitts. In fact, Indiana Summitts believe that their Daniel Summitt (son of Christian) first added the "t". And indeed, the tombstone of Christian Summit (believed to be the eldest son of Francis) in the Old Dutch Cemetery in Monroe County, Indiana, spells the name "Summit", while the other descendants of Christian buried

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(2) An excellent review of the early German settlements West of the Catawba River and a compilation of names and information on these settlers is provided in Lorena Sell Eaker's "German Speaking People West of the Catawba River in North Carolina 1750 - 1800 and Some Emigres' Participation in the Early Settlement of Southeast Missouri" cuurently still in print and available from Mrs. Eaker.

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in the same cemetery reflect the name "Summitt", including some of his sons.

Needless to say, researchers of the Summit(t) family today will finding living individuals spelling the name with either one or two "t" s, including some tracing their lineage to Daniel Summit.

Francis Summit (1741 - 1818)

It is believed that Frantz Sammet/ Francis Summit, the most common German and English versions of his name, respectively [hereinafter generally cited as Francis Summit], entered the country through Philadelphia and came to North Carolina before 1769. He was born in February 1741 (as indicated on his tombstone), probably in Germany. There are numerous clues suggesting he was a fairly mature person when he came to the United States, such as knowledge of the German language, a willingness to assert the German nature of his name on occasion, owning a German language Bible and probably other German language books, and having his tombstone inscribed in old German script. Some have speculated that Francis was the son of a Jacob Sammet, who arrived in the port of Philadelphia in September 10, 1953 on the ship Beulah **(2)** and might be the Jacob Sammet subsequently located in Earl Township in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and a Jacob Sammet later (ca. 1775-1778) found in the Northern Neck of Virginia in Hampshire County (now West Virginia)**(3)**. Others have wondered if the Frantz Samant that entered through the Port of Philadelphia in 1768 was not in fact Frantz Sammet. All of this is speculation.

Francis Summit probably settled on about 150 acres of land in the Leepers/Killian Creek area of Lincoln County, North Carolina [then Tyron County] that he obtained in 1769 from Charles and Robert Abernathy. He subsequently obtained in 1789 another 150 acres or so by grant from the State of North Carolina abutting his already owned land **(4)**. He was married to a woman named Dolly (perhaps before he came to North Carolina) and they ultimately had at least twelve children—six sons and six daughters—all of whom survived Francis. Census information gives an idea of the development of the family **(5)**. The 1790 census indicates that the Francis Summit household was made up of 5 males under 16, 1 males 16 and over, and 4 females. The 1800 census indicates the household had 2 males under 10 years, 2 males 10 to 16 years, 2 males 16 to 26 years, 1 males over 45 years, 2 females under 10 years, 2 females 10 to 16 years, 2 females 16 to 26 years, and 1 female over 45 years. The 1810 census indicates the household had 1 males 10 to 16 years, 1 males 16 to 26 years, 1 male over 45 years, 1 female 10 to 16 years, 1 female 16 to 26 years, and 1 female over 45 years.

Francis Summit 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 **(6)**. There is no information concerning what Francis did for this payment. It has been speculated that it was for furnishing some goods, services, or the use of land. Lincoln County, of course, was in the general path of General Cornwalis' march northward from South Carolina to Virginia late in the war and not far from the famous battle of King's Mountain. In the final

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analysis, no one really knows Franscis' participation, if any.

(2) This Jacob Sammet is apparently the only confirmed passenger list "Sammet" with a documented entry into the United States during that time period. Francis, of course, was a minor at the time and ordinarily would not have been listed. Immigrants on the ship Beulah (Captain Richey) arriving from Rotterdam by way of Cowes, England, were qualified for entry on Monday, September 10, 1753. A list of the men on board consisted of eight Catholics and the rest Lutheran, including a Jacob Sammett. The qualifying list for this arrival thought perhaps to be a medical qualification included a Jacob (mark x) Sammet. A third list apperently signed at the courthouse at Philadelphia (probably involving an oath of allegience) included a Jacob (mark x) Sammit and noted that the ship Beulah was freighted with Palitines from Rotterdam. See Pennsylvania Perman Pioneers, by Ralph Beaver Strassburger (1880).

(3) On the other hand, it might also be speculated that this first Jacob Sammet entering the colonies in 1753 was the father of not only the North Carolina Francis Sammet but also the Hampshire County Jacob Sammet, a Christian Sammet married in a German Reformed Church in Philadelphia in 1755, a Christian Summitt noted in Yohogania County, Virginia (later a part of Pennsylvania) in 1777-1778, and the 1780s Kentucky Summits, Christian Summit, George Summit, Susanna Summit (John) Wyatt, and Rosanna Summit (John) Swank.

(4) Leepers Creek is formed by the junction of Sawmill and Lippard creeks in Northeast current Lincoln Countyand flows Southeast into Gaston County where it joins Killians creek to form Dutchmans creek. It appears ass Leapers creek on the Collet 1770 map.

(5) Caution should be used in definitively using census information to form conclusions, particular on age classifications. Discrepancies between census information and other sources for which no apparent reason can be given will occasionally be noted herein.

(6) North Carolina Archives Revolutionary Army Accounts, Volume I, page 60, Folio 2. This Revolutionary War notation has proved sufficient to have Francis Summit designated as a "patriot" for purposes of qualifying for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution.

Setting the arrival time in North Carolina as before 1769 is based on several pieces of evidence: First, the information on Christian's (believed to be Francis' eldest son) tombstone and corroborated by 1850 and 1860 Indiana census information indicate he was born May 5, 1769 in North Carolina (7) [Christian died on April 18, 1965 in Monroe Co. Indiana, at the age of 96] (8). Second, Francis was approved for some kind of payment out of the North Carolina Revolutionary War Account in 1782. Third, two other children were born in Lincoln County ca. 1783 (Francis Jr.) and 1787 (Betsy/Elizabeth), respectively (1850 North Carolina census records). Fourth, both the grantee and grantor land transaction indexes in the North Carolina Archives show that the Francis Summit/Abernathy transaction took place in 1769, although probably not recorded in the county records until 1789 just prior to the land grant of 150 adjacent acres to Francis Summit on May 18, 1789. Apparently the Francis Summit/Abernathy deed itself cannot be located in either the North Carolina Archives or the Lincoln County Courthouse to confirm this conclusion, but the entry in the grantor index (Abernathy) of "1769" stands out like a sore thumb as clearly out of place in a whole sequence of Abernathy transactions leading up to 1789 and I doubt it would have been entered by mistake. Later references to the Francis Summit/Abernathy transaction as having occurred in 1789 in the subsequent 1806 deed transferring the whole 300 acres to Alex Brevard and Joseph Graham could well have mistakenly referred to the date it was recorded rather than the date of the deed. Finally, it is difficult to imagine this German immigrant farmer to be in Lincoln County, North Carolina raising a big family (eight children already by 1790) without buying land or obtaining land by grant long before 1789.

If Francis did indeed purchase the Abernathy property in 1769, as believed, Francis and Dolly lived on their land in the Leepers/Killian Creek area for most of the next thirty years—a period during which they probably had all of their children (9). It is not known which Lutheran church this family was affiliated with, but it is clear from later records that they were active Lutherans. Francis Summit and family moved over to a Lyles Creek (10) location just North of Newton and Conover, North Carolina at least by 1802 (but probably not much before) when he bought 376 acres of land from a Joseph Cowan (11). Francis bought another 560 acres of land in the Lyles Creek area from David Lowrance in 1805 and a year later sold the Leepers Creek property to Alexander Brevard and Joseph Graham. The move probably was made to bring the family into the worship environs of the relatively newly established St. John's Lutheran Church or to get closer to the towns of New ton, Conover or Hickory. Two of his children, Elizabeth and John, were confirmed at St. John's on August 18, 1804, placing their births probably in the mid-to-latter-part-of the 1780s. As far as can be determined, none of Francis Summit's sons acquired land of their own in North Carolina, so it would seem that the sons at least remained essentially as a family unit working land originally acquired by Francis well into their adulthood. Francis sold land to John Cloninger, husband of his daughter Dolly, and Frederick Hoke in 1817 and owned about 625 acres at the time of his death.

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(7) Admittedly, it is not possible to resolve 1790 through 1820 North Carolina census indications that all of the children were under 16 years of age in 1790, that Christian was under 46 in 1820, and Jacob was over 45 in 1820, but the author has no reason to believe the more precise information in the 1850 and 1860 Indiana census information and the tombstone inscription for Christian is inaccurate.

(8) The writer has substantial information on Christian, having been in communication over the years with a still living relative—Daniel W. & Helen L. Baker Summitt in Plainfield, Indiana. Daniel is now 79 and Helen 71 years old. Christian, of course, was the son designated as administrator of Francis Summit's estate in 1818. His first wife was Catherine Link, apparently no children (however, see below); second wife, Elizabeth Master, with whom he had at least seven children all born in North Carolina before coming to Indiana; and third wife, Hannah Elliot, with no children. Christian and Elizabeth are buried in the St. John's Lutheran (Old Dutch) Cemetery near Ellettsville, Indiana in Monroe County.

(9) If I am correct that Christian was probably the eldest son, he and other children should have been confirmed in the Lutheran Church during the circuit riding days of Rev. Johann Gottfried Arendt; Francis had five sons and three daughters at the time of the 1790 census and had six sons and six daughters at the time of the 1800 census. His last son was Daniel Summit (my great, great, great grandfather) born on April 5, 1795 in Lincoln County, North Carolina. I am not aware of any Arendt records on the Frantz Sammet (Samet) family, but I understand his extant journals are fragmentary.

(10) Lyles Creek rises in North Catawba County and flows Southeast into the Catawba River and appears on the 1770 Collet map as Liles Creek. St. John's Lutheran Church sits on the highest point in the area overlooking the Lyles Creek to the North.

(11) An abstract of this 1802 deed erroneously places Joseph Cowan in Lincoln County and Francis Summit in Rowan County. An examination of the deed itself shows the reverse: Joseph Cowan was from Rowan County and Francis Summit was from Lincoln County.

Francis Summit died February 17, 1818 in Lincoln County (to become Catawba County in 1842), North Carolina. His German name as indicated on his tombstone was Frantz Sammet. The old German "tz" script used is apparently translated as "cis", thus the name Francis. Some of his children's names occur in German in Lutheran records as Samet or Sammet. He is buried in the St. John's Lutheran Cemetery north of Conover, North Carolina. His full name was Johannes Frantz Sam[m]et as indicated on the marriage bond for his daughter, Magdlin [Mary Magdaline], dated July 25, 1813. His wife, Dolly, survived him, but not much else is known about her, such as her maiden name, when she died, or what happened to her after his death. She may have gone to live with one of the children after Francis died, since the estate records clearly indicate the household and personal property of Francis was completely liquidated. Dolly was apparently Francis' first and only wife and the mother of all the children, with one of the first daughters being named Dolly. She was designated as over 45 years of age in the 1800 census, as was Francis, but she was probably somewhat younger than Francis since she was still having children into the mid-1790s. Dolly may also be buried in the St. John's Graveyard, but a grave marker for her has not been identified.

As noted, Francis died on February 17, 1818. He died intestate (without a will). His widow, Dolly, elected not to act as executor of his estate and Christian Summit was appointed Administrator. A committee of three men in the community (Alex Lowrance, Eli Perkins, and Henry Dellinger) were appointed by the court to recommend an allowance for the widow for the first year, a task they completed by signed report dated April 30, 1818. In the meantime, Christian was engaged in the normal tasks of an Administrator of inventorying and disposing of the personal property in the estate, collecting money owed the estate, paying debts and settling claims against the estate, and distributing the residue of the estate to the heirs. In May and July, the personal property of the estate was inventoried and sold (apparently in a good old fashion estate sale), with each item listed, name of purchaser, and price paid. The total value of the personal property came to 995 dollars and 29 1/4 cents, which, when combined with two notes due the estate, brought the total personal property value of the estate to 1795 dollars and 29 1/4 cents. Disposition of the proceeds were made by Christian to the heirs and creditors of the estate and an accounting made to the Court. The land in the estate was divided by deeds dated October 20, 1818 between four sons, who bought out the interests of Jacob Summit and five daughters and their husbands: Francis Summit, Jr. (120 acres); Daniel Summit (125 acres); Christian Summit (250 acres); and John Summit (132 acres). Henry took his legacy out of the personal property of the estate. A careful review of the estate papers reveals the makeup of the family at Francis Summit's death: Dolly (the Widow); Christian, Jacob, Francis Jr., John, Henry, and Daniel (the sons); and Margaret, wife of Lewis Huit, Catherine, wife of Henry Huit, Dolly, wife of John Cloninger, Elizabeth, wife of David Dronbarger, Polly (Mary Magdaline), the wife of Jacob Dronbarger, and Betsy, apparently unmarried (the daughters) **(12)**.

Marriage bonds in Lincoln County, North Carolina, or other reliable sources indicate the following marriages of Francis Summit's children: **(13)**

Dolly Summit to	(1) John Cloninger, ca. 1800
Christian Summit to	(1) Catherine Link, April 6, 1802
	(2) Elizabeth Master, June 9, 1803
	[(3) Hannah Elliot, April 12, 1846 in Indiana]
Margaret Summit to	(1) Michael Deitz, ca. 1804
	(2) Lewis Huit, November 19, 1816
Jacob Summit to	(1) Polly (Mary) Cloninger, April 25, 1805
Francis Summit to	(1) Elizabeth Shook, January 19, 1809
Elizabeth Summit to	(1) David Dronbarger (Thornburg), February 17, 1810
Daniel Summit to	(1) Sarah (Sally) Moser, December 3, 1813
Magdalin Summit to	(1) Jacob Dronbarger (Thornburg), July 25, 1813
Henry Summit to	(1) Catharine Mayors (or Moyers), Dec. 26, 1815
Catharine Summit to	(1) Henry Huit (son of Lewis), October 21, 1817

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The order of these marriages may not represent the order of birth but it is probably close. This writer has concluded that the children were born in the following order: Christian (1769), Dolly, Margaret, Jacob (all in the 1770s), Francis Jr. (ca. 1783), John (ca. 1785), the unmarried Elizabeth (ca. 1787), Henry (ca. 1789-1790), the Elizabeth married to David Dronbarger (ca. 1790-1791), Mary Magdaline (ca. 1793), Daniel (April 5, 1795), and Catherine (ca. 1797).

Current knowledge on Francis' and Dolly's children is somewhat limited on most of them and needs substantial basic research. Some information known and documented by this writer (with much assistance from others) will be included in Part 2 of this article in the next issue of the *Summitt Quarterly Newsletter*.

(12) It is not totally clear that Betsy is a different person than Elizabeth, the wife of David Dronbarger, also listed as Betsy in the marriage bond; however, a Betsy Summitt shows up by that name in the estate papers as an heir and a Betsy Summit/Elizabeth Summit born ca. 1787 are listed in the 1830 and 1850 census records, respectively. In addition, after reviewing numerous records, the surname Huit, Cloninger, and Dronbarger have been selected as the most probable spelling of these names. It is not uncommon, however, to see variations, such as Hewit, Huet, Kloninger, Tronbarg, and Thornburg, and any research on these families would have to identify the alternatives.

(13) Marriage information is unavailable for John and a daughter named Elizabeth (Betsy) believed to be a different person than the wife of David Dronbarger, also named Elizabeth.

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