

Philip Eamer and his wife Catrina travelled from Germany to the port of Philadelphia in 1755. From Philadelphia they travelled north to settle in Charlotte County New York. They lived in Charlotte County from 1756 to approximately 1762. Information suggests that at least two children were born to them while in Charlotte County. Martin, born 11 February 1756³ and Peter born circa 1757.

From Charlotte County Philip and his family moved to Tryon County, New York to settle along the Mohawk River. Philip was a tenant farmer on Sir William Johnson's land. Sir William was an Irish emigrant who came to the Mohawk Valley in 1738. He was a wealthy land owner, trader and trusted friend of the Mohawk Indian.

Philip and Catrina lived about four miles from Johnstown. They had a lease of sixty six acres of land, all cleared, which he paid a rent of five pounds per year. The land was all fenced with an orchard and a stone house. (see figure 1). He was considered a wealthy man by his friends and neighbours.⁴ They attended the Dutch Reformed Church at Caugnawaga, a village just south of Johnstown. (See figure 2). Two of their children were baptized in this church, Philip, born 6 February 1763 and Jelles born 25 December 1773.⁵

Philip's name appears in the Sir William Johnson papers. He was one of many who signed a petition to have county boundaries changed. It was dated November 1771.⁶

Many settlers depended on each other not only for companionship but also to help each other clear and cultivate land. The Eamer family seems to have been very close to two families, the Alguires and the Gallingers, both of whose origins were German and both settled in the Mohawk Valley. They worked together, fought by each others side and eventually all settled in Canada.

War was not a stranger to these families. They left their homeland because of war only to be subjected to it for thirty more years. The French Indian war began in 1756 and ended in 1760. Following this, there was an approximate ten year break where the people lived a relatively peaceful life until the beginnings of the American Revolution.