

Jeremiah Clough

Jeremiah Clough Sr. (1710 – 1792) History says Jeremiah Clough (Sr) was the first settler of Canterbury and was sent here as a representative of the original proprietors. Clough journeyed back and forth from Canterbury to the Dover Durham area at least once a year, usually in between planting and harvesting seasons. During these trips he obtained supplies from Dover and Durham and provided status reports of the fledgling settlement back to the founding landowners, many of whom never set foot in Canterbury.

Proprietors' records reveal that there was a meeting of the inhabitants of Canterbury held in the home of Jeremiah Clough in 1743. At this meeting Clough was appointed to a committee to lay out the "Pew Ground" and build a Meeting House. Clough is on record purchasing a "Gospel Lot" of 100 acres, along the Merrimack River in what is now Northfield but was then Canterbury. These lots were being sold off to generate the funds necessary for erecting the meeting house and hiring a minister.

Hostilities with the Native Americans in 1744 caused the inhabitants of Canterbury to temporarily forgo building the Meeting House and use the money raised to build a fort instead. This fort was erected at the intersection of Carter Hill Road and Northwest Road and is described as "constructed of heavy hand-hewn, white oak timbers." Capt. Jeremiah Clough was chosen to take command of the fort and "put the inhabitants of the town in a posture of defense."

Lyford's *History of Canterbury* says that "Captain Jeremiah Clough was a man of substance. His fort was made a depot and rendezvous by the provincial government throughout the Indian wars." Clough's fort was used as a base camp by scouting parties and was also a trading post swapping powder, shot, bullets, flints, knives, blankets, tobacco, and rum for furs.

Raids on Canterbury homesteads and attacks on the fort beginning in 1746 resulted in Clough's fort being supplied and garrisoned by men provided by the provincial government. Ranging parties and scouts headquartered at Clough's fort scoured the area for the Native Americans who attacked Canterbury. Captain Clough personally led scouting parties up to the borders of Winnipesaukee and the Pemigewasset River, seeking to ambush and thwart attacking enemies on their way to Canterbury.

In his later years, Jeremiah Clough Sr. continued to be active in Canterbury government. He served as a Selectman and as delegate to the Legislature. His name appears on a petition to form the new county of Merrimack. Clough served as a Justice of the Peace, Pound Keeper, and on the "Committee of Safety" in 1775 (Minute Men).

Jeremiah Clough Jr. was born in 1736 and said to be the first white male born in this town. In 1775 Jeremiah Clough Jr. was appointed a Captain in the Continental Army and raised one of ten companies that formed the 2nd NH Regiment. For seven months Captain Clough's Company was stationed outside Boston during the British siege of the city.

In 1776, Clough's Company was ordered to Canada on the ill-fated attack of Quebec under the command of Colonel Benedict Arnold. Arnold led a force through the wilderness of

northern Maine in the dead of winter planning to siege and capture the city. This march on Quebec ended in disaster and defeat. Jeremiah Clough Jr was one of the few fortunate enough to return home and recover from the ordeal.

Following in his father's footsteps, Jeremiah Clough Jr. also served as a Canterbury Selectman and was elected to represent Canterbury in the NH Legislature. Clough Jr. was chosen as a committeeman in place of his father to represent Canterbury in settling a boundary dispute with the Town of Chichester. The junior Clough was also selected as a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1781 and again in 1788, when New Hampshire voted to ratify the United States Constitution

Remaining active in the state militia, Captain Clough (Jr) proudly attained the rank of Lt. Colonel. Historical writers will sometimes refer to him as Col. Jermiah Clough to distinguish him from his father, Captain Jeremiah Clough (Sr), who never reached the rank of Colonel. Jeremiah Clough (Jr) is buried beneath a large oak tree in the *Clough Cemetery*, near the intersection of Center Road and Northwest Road. Documentary evidence is weak, but some believe his father, the original settler and fort commander, (Jeremiah Clough Sr) is likely buried there also.