

Jeremiah Clough, Jr. of Canterbury, New Hampshire

Jeremiah Clough Jr. was the only child of his father's first marriage to Deliverance Leavitt, who died a few months after his birth in 1736, when she was only 17 years old. His father married again, and Jeremiah Jr. became eldest in a large family which included ten half-siblings.

His military records sometimes have been confused with those of his father, Jeremiah Clough, Sr. The father, called Captain in 1775 because he had served prominently in the French & Indian Wars, raised a company, served on the Committee of Safety, and signed the Association Test.



But it was the son Jeremiah Jr. who served as an active soldier, also as a Captain, commanding the first company raised from the town of Canterbury in 1775. Both father and son were verified in 1997 in DAR supplemental applications as approved ancestors.

By 1777, anti-British sentiments were very strong in New England. Jeremiah Jr. was jailed in Exeter, New Hampshire on charges of alleged disloyalty. It seems he had offered shelter in his barn to Dr. Philip Carrigan of Concord, who was suspected of being a Tory. Dr. Carrigan's wife was a cousin to Jeremiah Clough. Someone had reported Clough for this incident.

"Captain Clough was kept in close confinement until September 13, 1777, when, upon giving bonds, he had accorded to him the privileges of the jail yard. October 3 following, he and John Meloney were discharged."

Two letters remain written by Jeremiah Clough Jr. during this troubled time. To Ebenezer Thompson, written 2 Sep 1777, he asked:

"What have I done, sir, that I should thus be made unhappy by confinement? Sure I am that I have never injured this or the United States, but have faithfully served them according to the best of my knowledge and capacity..."

Four days later, on 6 Sep 1777, he wrote to his father:

"Honored Sir: This comes with my duty to you and my mother, hoping to find you well as I am, considering the long confinement I have had, which I see no relief unless god in his providence should release me - for people in general seem to have no humanity for their fellow creature, and in hoping for better times I am afraid to see worse..... "

and this letter ends with: *"I have no more to write at present but I remain your dutiful son till death should part us. Jere Clough Jun."*

Note the very formal tone of this sad letter from a son to his own parents. Jeremiah Jr. was released from jail a few weeks after this second letter was written, and returned home completely vindicated by his fellow townsmen and the state government. In 1780, less than three years later, he was elected a Committeeman in place of his father, to settle a boundary dispute with Chichester. In 1785, he was promoted to Lt. Col. of the 11th Regiment of Militia. In 1788, as "Col. Clough", he was selected to represent Canterbury at the NH Convention to ratify the new U.S. Constitution.

Source: James O. Lyford, *History of the Town of Canterbury, NH, 1727-1912*, reprinted 1973, pp. 120, 122, 159

Nathaniel Bouton, Ed., *Provincial, State, and Town Papers of NH*, Vol. X, 1877, p.3