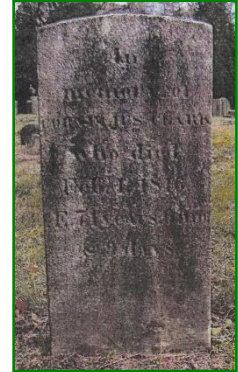


## Cornelius Clark

Cornelius Clark was an American patriot. His house, which still stands at the corner of Succabone Road and Bisbee Lane was burnt by the British in July of 1779 (p. 84 BHR VII, Interview with James Lyon.) He was a Lieutenant in the Westchester Militia, and after the war served on the Bedford Town Committee, which in 1784 passed the following ordinance. To wit:



"No persons who have been over to the enemy shall come into town to reside. If they have already come in they are immediately to be drove out." (p. 3 BHR V.) The memory of the fire on Succabone Road would have spurred Cornelius to drive out Tories, for that fire would have threatened his young wife, Elizabeth Hait Clark (who is buried here,) and his children, two year old Stephen and six month old Lounsbury. The Clarks seem to have rebuilt their house soon after it was set afire, and by the time that Cornelius served the committee to drive Tories our of Bedford, his house contained another toddler, two year old Elisha, born in 1782.

In the following years, Cornelius became a leading citizen and Trustee of the Bedford Presbyterian Church, as well as serving the town as Overseer of the Poor and Fence Viewer. He was among the original subscribers who laid out this cemetery in 1788, and he himself was laid to rest here when he passed away in February 1816 at the age of seventy-one. His first son Stephen had died fourteen years earlier at the age of twenty-six. In October, 1816, nine months after Cornelius passed away, his son Elisha died at the age of thirty-four.

**Elisha** was a husband and father by the time he died, having married Prudence Hall in 1800. The couple, who were both eighteen when they married, proceeded to have eight children of eight children ranging in age from sixteen to three. By the time she herself died in 1840, all her children were adults, and most of them had married and set up house on their own.

It was Prudence and Elisha's second son **Alfred**, who ended up owning the property on Succabone Road. In 1833, Alfred sold the family home to his older brother **Uel**. Uel had been married to Phebe Clark at this time, and the couple were expecting. The baby, Edmund Hewlett Clark, was born November 1833, but Phebe died a little over a month later (and lies buried here.) Uel sold the property on Succabone Road in 1838.

Alfred, meanwhile, married Sarah Potts, who was twelve years younger than he. In 1840 Sarah had a daughter, Adaline, who died at the age of eight months in 1841. The next year Sarah died in childbirth on October 12, 1842. Her baby, named after her, survived only two weeks, dying on October 26, 1842. Alfred remarried, after his wife's death, but died six years later himself in 1848. They are all buried in Buxton.

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