

WILLIAM STURDEVANT (-1714)
 MARY _____(-after 1719)

William and Mary Sturdevant were living in Norwalk, Conn., during the time of the Indian uprisings that terminated in the King Philip's War of 1675-6. Since so little is available regarding this couple, we can only assume that they were immigrants who settled in Norwalk. It is not known from where they came nor from what ancestry.

Norwalk is situated in the south west neck area of Connecticut on the shore of Long Island Sound not many miles south west of Stratford and only about thirty miles from New York City (see map #5).

William and Mary did not remain in Norwalk. Their son John bought land from the Indians and drew lot 14 in the initial drawing of home lots in the town that was named Ridgefield, Connecticut. Ridgefield is situated only two or three miles from the New York border and is about twelve or fifteen miles to the north of Norwalk. The Sturdevants removed to Ridgefield, probably at the time of its settlement or shortly thereafter, for both William and Mary were living there at the time of William's death in 1714. Mary was still living in 1719, according to Margaret Beebe, who contributed a pedigree chart of Elizabeth Sturdevant, a granddaughter of William and Mary Sturdevant.¹ Mary's death date is not recorded. What we have is sufficient to let us know that they were living in the area where their son John and his wife Mary (Ferris) were located, during their later years (7-61).

The foregoing account, simple and unpretentious, is all that the records of the past vouchsafe to us of the life of our ancestors, William and Mary Sturdevant. We would gladly draw aside the veil that enshrouds so much of their lives in mystery, but as that is impossible we are left to read between the lines of what we have. Knowing that they were early proprietors in the new settlements of both Norwalk and Ridgefield, outposts of civilization in their time. That alone tells us that they had a strenuous life of pioneering with all the incidents which that statement brings to mind; the constant fear of savage assault, the hardships of primitive living and the building of places of abodes out of the raw materials of the forest. We call them hardships, but perhaps to them they were opportunities that they would not exchange for privileges they had enjoyed in their homeland.

1. #2 chart (2255-43)