

JOHN STURDEVANT (1676-1718)  
 MARY FERRIS (abt. 1681- )

John Sturdevant was the son of William and Mary Sturdevant born in Norwalk, Connecticut, on July 20, 1676. He grew up in Norwalk and married (1) Elizabeth, b. about 1681 and she died after the birth of a daughter, Beulah, born in 1708. John married, about 1709, Mary Ferris, daughter of Zachariah and Sarah (Blood) Ferris of Stratford, Conn. and they had three children, John, Elizabeth, our ancestor, and Samuel. The children of John and Mary were born in Ridgefield, Conn., so evidently, they moved there from Norwalk shortly after their marriage when John was about 33 years of age.

In 1708 John was one of the company which bought land at Ridgefield from the Indians and helped begin a new settlement. He drew lot 14 in the initial drawing for home lots and John and Mary made Ridgefield their permanent home. They had been married at Stratford, he being the widower of Elizabeth and Mary, a widow of \_\_\_\_\_ Jackson. Their children are listed in the DAR record thus:

- "1. Beulah Sturdevant, b. abt. 1708 at Norwalk, Conn., the only child by John's first wife; md. (1) May 14, 1735, Ezekiel Wilmot, son of Thomas Wilmot and Mary Lines. He died 1746. (2) July 28, 1748, Johathan Osborn. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Collier. (4) Daniel McNamara. She died after 1786 in New Haven, Conn.
2. John Sturdevant, b. Feb. 16, 1710 at Ridgefield, Conn., md. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Apr. 12, 1732, Ridgefield, Keziah \_\_\_\_\_ (3) 1741, Danbury, Conn., Abigail, dau. of Samuel Knapp and Hannah Rushnell and widow of \_\_\_\_\_ Curtis.
3. Elizabeth Sturdevant, b. Feb. 15, 1713 at Ridgefield; md. (1) Mar. 17, 1729/30 at New Haven, Conn., Willett Bishop, son of John Bishop and Abigail Willett; md. (2) about 1749, Joseph Ruggles. Children by (1) Willett Bishop are listed in the Bishop review (7-56). Children by (2) Joseph Ruggles are: 4. Samuel Ruggles, b. Sept. 18, 1750, New Haven; md. June 1, 1779, Hulda Wakelee. 5. Elizabeth Ruggles, b. Mar. 22, 1753, New Haven; md. Eli Segar of Danbury. 6. Mary Ruggles, b. Aug 22, 1757, New Haven; md. Nathan Merwin.
4. Samuel Sturdevant, b. Feb. 15, 1715, Ridgefield; died, age 20, May 14 1735, New Haven." <sup>1</sup>

John died July 27, 1718, when his oldest daughter, Beulah, was 10 years old, John Jr. was 8, Elizabeth was 5 and Samuel was 3. "Mary (Ferris) Sturdevant, the wife and mother, did marry some time before Dec. 22, 1722, (3) John Davis of Derby, Conn." <sup>2</sup> Derby is about 12 miles north of Stratford. New Haven, the home of Mary's people, seems to be the locality that the family generally called home. None remained in Ridgefield, and Mary's youngest son Samuel, as a young man, died and was buried in New Haven which would indicate that the family lived there after the death of their father, John Sturdevant.

Stratford and Norwalk are coastal towns, off the Long Island Sound and Ridgefield is inland to the north of Norwalk ten or fifteen miles. All three settlements are near New York. Ridgefield lays only a couple of miles from the boundary between New York state and Connecticut.

1. #71, pp. 95, 96
2. ibid, p. 100