

# ROUZE GENEALOGY

Relating to the ancestry of Roy Merrill Bridgham & Pauline (Sarver) Bridgham

## DISCLAIMER NOTE:

This document is to present Pauline Sarver genealogy information known at the date of this publication. This is a living document and is subject to change as new information is learned and confirmed. The information presented is determined to be factual; however, any conflict of information with another individual's source or other sources of Sarver genealogy data, this document's information and the new source's of information will be reviewed together to determine the correct facts for inclusion to this publication. The date printed on the lower right hand corner of each page is the date of current publication.

Only the information presented at this date of publication is known about the Rouze family and current efforts continue to locate the ancestral links to Joseph Rouze.

## INTRODUCTION:

This book is about the Rouze family providing the ancestry of Pauline Sarver. This book will provide data on the Rouze family starting with oldest known ancestor descending to Maluda (Rouze) Sarver, Pauline Sarver's mother. This was prepared as part of the genealogy research to find the ancestors to Roy Merrill Bridgham and Pauline (Sarver) Bridgham.

The Rouze family is said to have origin in France; However the exact origin of subject Rouze ancestors is unknown at this time. Facts surrounding the Rouze family are presented with the first known ancestor, Joseph Rouze born 1797.

A separate book exists for the Bridgham ancestry, the Merrill ancestry (Merrill being the maiden name of Roy's mother Iona Merrill), and the Sarver ancestry (Sarver being the maiden name of Roy's wife Pauline (Sarver) Bridgham).

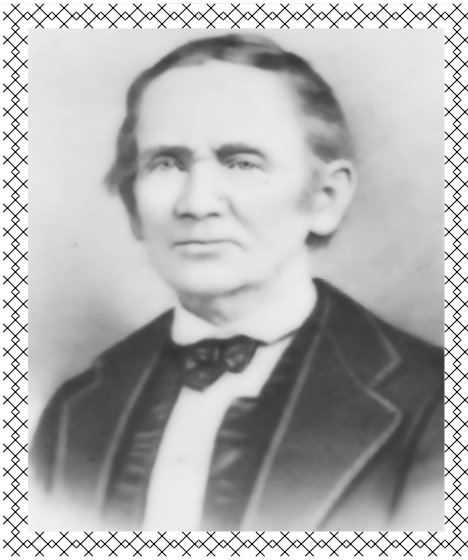
## OTHER NOTES:

Most of the information in this book has been obtained from the publication "*Genealogy of the Joseph Rouze Family*", by Mrs. Ellen A. (Nellie ) Hunter Sherman (granddaughter), published by Clafin Printing Co., Lincoln, Neb, 1928 and various family information. Some information is available on the internet but little of that has been used to date to create this book. However those internet sources and local historical societies have provided some information to date.

This book is intended to present the basic family information and any biographical information about a family known a publication. More detailed information is available through genealogy resources and from the author of this book.

## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE BOOK:

abt	=	About:	Meaning estimated date based on records found.
aft	=	After:	Known dates are approximate based on records found.
bef	=	Before:	Known dates are approximate based on records found.
b	=	Born:	Date and place of Birth
d	=	Died:	Date and place of Death
m	=	Married:	Date and place of Marriage
bur	=	Buried	Date and Place of Burial
*	=	The asterisk indicates the parental ancestry person of Maluda Rouze	

**JOSEPH ROUZE**

Born: 6 February 1797, Allentown, Monmouth, New Jersey

Died: 23 April 1880, Milford, Decatur, Indiana

Buried: Indiana

Occupation: Tanner, Shoemaker, Farmer

Spouse: Susan Forsyth

Born: abt. 1804, Allentown, Monmouth, New Jersey

Died: abt. 1889, Tracy, Marion, Iowa

Buried: Bethal Cemetery, Tracy, Iowa

Married: 19 March 1822, Allentown, New Jersey

Nothing is known at this time about the Forsyth family except for some notes in the book *The Genealogy of the Joseph Rouze Family* and those comments are in this text of the Joseph Rouze family.

Children of Joseph Rouze and Susan Forsyth are:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| John F. Rouze        | b. 1 January 1823<br>d. 28 August 1901<br>m. 7 March 1844 Nancy Reed (5 Children)<br>Virginia Harlow (1 child, died in infancy)<br>7 September 1865 Nancy J. May (no children) |
| *William Kates Rouze | b. 10 April 1827<br>d. 29 April 1911<br>m. 4 October 1849 Mary Toler Marsh (4 Children)  |
| Elizabeth Ann Rouze  | b. 13 November 1824<br>d. 1 February 1848<br>m. 17 August 1843 John Reed (2 Children)  |
| Aaron P. Rouze       | b. 19 May 1829<br>m. no  |
| Sarah Jane Rouze     | b. 31 May 1831<br>d. 8 January 1855<br>m. 6 August 1853 Peter Anspach (1 child)  |
| Malissa Rouze        | b. 21 April 1835<br>d. 29 April 1898<br>m. 31 August 1854 Samuel S. Hogate (9 Children)  |
| Emily Rouze          | b. 3 May 1837<br>d. 13 February 1915<br>m. 6 August 1854 Miller C. Hunter (6 Children)   |
| Edward E. Rouze      | b. 29 March 1841<br>d. 11 June 1924<br>m. 1865 Elizabeth Woodfill (no Children) d. 1871<br>m. Lydia Lowry (widow in 1872) (6 children) d. 1895                                 |
| Child                | died in infancy  |

Mary F. Rouze                    b. 4 February 1845  
    d. Unknown  
    m. Madison J. Riley 14 February 1867 (4 children)

Joseph K. Rouze                b. 24 January 1857  
    d. 21 January 1925  
    m. Lida Riley 3 December 1869 (4 children)

#### **INFORMATION ABOUT JOSEPH ROUZE:**

Joseph Rouze was an orphan and cared for himself while growing up. Living at times on the streets of Allentown, New Jersey. He worked as an apprentice; and at age 21 after serving the allotted time, he became a journeyman in the tanning & shoemaking business. After his marriage to Susan Forsyth, in 1822, he moved to Somerville, Butler, Ohio setting up a tanning business there.

Dissatisfied with the profitability of the business, in 1828, he went by himself west to search new beginnings. Joseph found his place with a 200 acre parcel in Indiana (for \$300) About 50 miles east of the border. Location is (Milford [part of Clay Township), Decatur County, Indiana on the Vandayly road, eight miles west of Greensburg, the county seat. Eventually, a great hi-way across the state was built near Joseph's land. The land improvements were a log-cabin shack with one small window and one door, stick chimney and a well of water. Joseph blazed a trail to the road to make finding the dwelling easier upon return with his family.

Moving the family was by wagon and oxen. A distance that took many days to cover 200 miles, alone in the wilderness traveling with two other families seeking new beginnings. When reaching their destination, they had no electricity, rude shelter, a bucket and rope to fetch water from the well. They raised 11 children (1 died at infancy, another at age 23) while cultivating the land and building significant improvements.

Profitable crops were the cultivation of flax. Harvested by hand, Susan Rouze spun and wove cloth and made it into clothing for the entire family. She braided straw and shaped it into hats. While a devoted mother, she helped in the cultivation of the timber to make way for space to cultivate the soil. After 20 years, there was 160 acres under cultivation containing farm crops and orchards along with many farm animals.

Twenty years later, the land was in full cultivation, corralled by the downed timber made into fences. Other timber was used to build two large frame barns, corn cribs and other buildings to shelter stock and fowl. Two brick dwellings were erected on the farm. A great fruit orchard with a variety of trees was grown.

The family were devote Methodist and practice their religion as a family with some of the children to become ministers of the faith in Iowa. Joseph was self taught and lack the formal education himself but ensured his children had a good education. As this couple was known throughout the community and well respected, there were commonly addressed as Uncle Josie and Aunt Susan. This family was a typical pioneer family finding land, building a fine home, working the land to prosper and provide for family, home and community. Having found this land, they worked endless hours to clear and build a farm that was respected home site of the area and time.

Joseph was a self taught man with no formal education. He was very up-to-date on current events. Joseph and Susan were kind and generous with their home open to weary travelers, friends and neighbors. He was always on the forefront of modern improvements. He was devoted to the Methodist church and politically followed the Republican party. The living room was always a place for prayer with visitors and a greeting room to weary travelers.



**Susan Forsyth-Rouze:**

Susan's ancestry is known to be associated with the Friends or Quaker faith in early American history. Two brothers first came to America, John and James Antram. James's son Ebenezer had a son Samuel whose daughter Elizabeth married John Forsyth in 1800. Elizabeth & John Forsyth had 10 children and are the parents of Susan Forsyth-Rouze. John Forsyth lived to be 100 years, 11 months, 20 days & was living with William K. Rouze at the time of his death in 1876. Elizabeth died much earlier of black jaundice in Decatur, Indiana.

The Antram family were farmer's with some of the family members still working the original family farm in 1928. John Forsyth was a farmer living in Indiana and part of his life has lived in Iowa near his daughter Susan and her son William K. Rouze.

Elder son John F. Rouze went to Marion County, Iowa in 1849 by wagon train accompanied by James Gregory, Ebenezer, Samuel, and William Ridlen with their families. John F. Rouze entered land that year about three and a half miles SE of Tracy, Iowa. It was largely through the efforts of John F. Rouze that the Bethel Church of Clay Township was built in 1862, but many years before the church was built, a small frame school house was erected on the ground adjoining the lot where the church was later to stand.

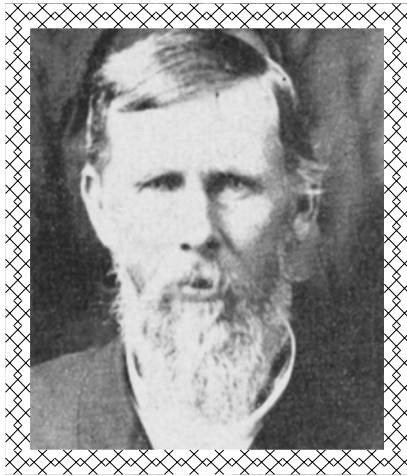
Back of the school house and church to the west, the cemetery was platted. Louise, a small daughter of John F. Rouze was the first to be buried there in 1860. The oldest person in Marion county lies there, John Forsythe, maternal grandfather of the pioneer Susan (Forsythe) Rouze. Had he lived ten more days he would have been 101 years old. He was born in New Jersey, March 27, 1775 and died March 17 1876.

The Bethel Church was moved away in 1924 and a small brick chapel was built in 1931, which was still standing in 1976 but was used only for storage.

Many of John F. Rouze's siblings came to Iowa after John. This became the Rouze family center. The Rouze parents lived a great life in Indiana and Joseph is buried there. Susan Rouze came to Iowa to live her final days with her sons and is buried in the Bethel Church.



Above photos are of the Bethel Cemetery near Tracy, Marion County, Iowa. This is were many of the Rouze family are buried along with William & Maluda Sarver. These photos were taken in 2001 and provided by cousins of the Sarver family that visited the area. As you can see, its in the middle of open farm country and has been there since the mid 1800s when it was established by the Rouze family.

**William Kates Rouze**

Born: Somerville, Butler, Ohio, 11 April 1827

Died: Tracy, Marion, Iowa, 29 April 1911

Occupation: Farmer

Spouse: Mary T. Marsh

Born: Somerville, Butler, Ohio, 18 January 1826

Died: Tracy, Marion, Iowa 29 March 1914

Married: Milford, Decatur, Indiana — 4 October 1849

Nothing is known at this time about the Marsh family; but some notes are in the book *The Genealogy of the Joseph Rouze Family*.Children of William Rouze and Mary Marsh are:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Herschel N. Rouze | b. 28 September 1850<br>d. 2 January 1838<br>m. Cordelia Black 1873 (6 children)<br>Mary Durham 23 April 1894 (no children) |
| *Maluda W. Rouze  | b. 23 May 1854<br>d. 9 March 1923<br>m. William Joseph Sarver 2 November 1871 (7 children)                                  |
| Julia Mills Rouze | b. 5 October 1857<br>d. 1 February 1937<br>m. William Russell Hanna 1 January 1880 (3 children)                             |
| Fannie Rouze      | b. 2 January 1862<br>d. 1876, diphtheria  |

**INFORMATION ABOUT WILLIAM KATES ROUZE:**

At age 4, William's parents moved the family to Decatur county, Indiana where he married Mary T. Marsh.

In 1864 William and Mary moved to Marion county, Iowa settling on the farm known as the Samuel Ridlen place just east of Bethel church in Marion County. Samuel Ridlen was one of the members of the wagon train that came to Iowa with John F. Rouze in 1849. In later years they moved to Tracy, Iowa, spending the remainder of their days in quietude.

William was 14 when he was converted and united with the Methodist Episcopal church to which he adhered most faithfully during the whole of his life. His faith was constant and his life was that of consecration and service in the cause of God.

His early and his constant spirit of religious devotion and service as well as his natural disposition and gracious endowments not only kept him from sin but made him oblivious of it.

His sunny disposition gave him the respect and friendship of all who knew him. Even during the infirmities and suffering through which he passed he still retained the same sweet calm disposition that had meant more to him than silver and gold. His life closed as the dying day, silently, peacefully and beautifully.

Many of Rouze brother's and sisters moved to Iowa all living within the community of Clay Township, Knoxville & Tracy, Marion County, Iowa. Others lived in Nebraska and Kansas with one sister remaining in the Indiana area until her death. One son, Edward E. Rouze, returned to the Father's home and helped until his father passed away, then he sold the farm and moved back to Tracy, Iowa bringing his mother to live in Iowa. The Rouze family was devote religious family and two of the sons were ministers with the Methodist Episcopal church. There devotion to religion and family brought a strict and daily practice of honor, faith and discipline to their lives and families. All having contributed some important gifts to live during their lifetime and their communities. Some served in the Army during the civil war having lived to receive honorable discharge. The Rouze family did reflect the family traditions and honor that were passed to their children.



**Mary T. Marsh:**

Not much is known about Mary Marsh at this time. She was the child of Noah and Cynthia Bouren Marsh. She had a sister Lydia Ann who was the second wife of Edward Rouze, William K. Rouze's brother.

This picture was extracted from a photo of Mary with daughter's Maluda and Julia Rouze. Since Mary died in 1914, this picture is prior to that time and probably around 1900.

Mary Marsh Rouze sitting on front porch of family home.





### **Maluda Rouze**

Born: 23 May 1854, Milford, Decatur, Indiana  
Died: 9 March 1923, Harvey, Clay Township, Marion, Iowa

Occupation: Housewife

Spouse: William Joseph Sarver  
Born: abt. 12 February 1847, Mercer County, Missouri  
Died: 12 January 1899, Harvey, Clay Township, Marion, Iowa

Married: 2 November 1871, Harvey, Clay Township, Marion, Iowa

See the book about the Sarver family for more information on Joseph Sarver.

#### Children of William Sarver and Maluda Rouze are:

Joseph K. Sarver	b. 17 May 1873 d. 25 June 1910 (buried 6 30 1910 Marion County) m. No
Earl W. Sarver	b. 9 May 1878 d. ?? m. 7 June 1899 Lottie Annie Ruple (4 Children)
Mary Toler Sarver	b. 23 September 1881 d. m. 24 September 1902 Fred Leland Vernon (2 Children)
* Pauline Sarver	b. 2 February 1884 d. 17 February 1933 m. 12 May 1909 Roy Merrill Bridgham (8 Children)
Bertha Joseph Sarver	b. 27 August 1889 d. 6 August 1957 m. No
Therman Sarver	b. 1890
Gertrude Julia Sarver	b. 10 February 1877 d. 22 August 1953 m. 19 November 1935 George T. King (No Children)

#### **MALUDA ROUZE-SARVER:**

Maluda was raised on a farm. Her father was a respected member of the community and practiced religious following along with teaching his faith to family and community.

Maluda had to carry the load in running the family farm since her husband's death in 1899.

She was not a healthy woman herself. She suffered from carcinoma of the liver and had trouble with leakage of the heart and with each severe attack of pain the family feared her death. Many were finally summoned but were saddened at her death. Her youngest son, Therman, while helping at her home in the final hours was taken to the hospital suffering with pneumonia and rheumatism and did not help the family cope with the grief of the death of Maluda Rouze.

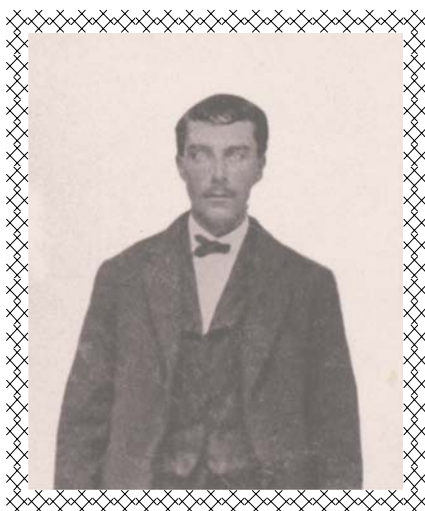
Maluda was a devoted Christian woman and taught the same to her children. The children were fond of their family days together at home with their mother and father. She was a member of the M. E. Church for many years and was a defatigable worker in the Ladies' Aid and was always willing to do all she could to

promote the finances of those organizations.

Funeral services were held at the church with her pastor presiding on Sunday Afternoon.

Maluda's family gathered at the home for final respects with children from San Francisco, Santa Clara, California and other children from the Iowa area. Many devote friends attended the services.

She was a member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and the Federated Woman's club, at Knoxville; Tracy chapter No. 164 of the Eastern Stars, and Harrold White Shrine of Oskaloosa.



**William Joseph Sarver:**

See the Sarver book for more information on William and the Sarver family.

Not much is known about William's background at this time. He was found living in Iowa about 1860, then married Maluda in 1871. He was a farmer in the area and a Deputy Sheriff for Marion County. About a year prior to his death, he was tossed from a buggy in an accident, but other complications help lead to his death in 1899. William was a good family man and provider. He was well respected in the community and made a comfortable home for his family.

**Note:** The preceding photos of William & Maluda are said to be a wedding photo. That would date the photo to be about 1871.

A black and white portrait of a woman with light-colored hair styled up, wearing a dark dress with a prominent white lace collar and floral accents on the shoulders.	<p>The picture to the left is of Maluda (Rouze) Sarver that was taken prior to 1914 as this picture was extracted from a photo of Maluda's mother and sister.</p>	<p><b>Maluda (Rouze) Saver</b></p>	<p>The Picture to the right is of Maluda (Rouze) Sarver that is estimated was taken sometime around 1900.</p>	A black and white portrait of a woman with light-colored hair styled up, wearing a dark dress with a prominent white lace collar and floral accents on the shoulders.
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See the Sarver family book for details on Maluda's daughter Pauline (Saver) Bridgham and the Bridgham book for Pauline's spouse Roy Merrill Bridgham.