

= William Henry Leonard Poe =

William Henry Leonard Poe , often referred to as Henry Poe , ( January 30 , 1807 ? August 1 , 1831 ) was a sailor , amateur poet and the older brother of Edgar Allan Poe and Rosalie Poe .

After the death of their parents , the three Poe children were split up : Henry lived with family in Baltimore , Maryland , while Edgar and Rosalie were cared for by two different families in Richmond , Virginia . Before the age of 20 , Henry traveled around the globe by sea before returning to Baltimore and becoming a published poet and author . One of his works , " The Pirate " , was a fictionalized account of his brother 's first relationship with Sarah Elmira Royster in Richmond . Henry died of tuberculosis in 1831 at the age of twenty @-@ four .

Henry Poe was an inspiration to his brother 's life and writings and the two had similar writing styles . Edgar Allan Poe for a time used the alias " Henri Le Rennet " , a name inspired by Henry . Henry 's influence on Edgar 's writing include a character in the novel The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket and possibly the name of the title character in the poem " Lenore " .

= = Biography = =

William Henry Leonard , who went by the name Henry , was born circa January 30 , 1807 , to traveling actors Eliza Poe and David Poe , Jr . , four months after their troupe began performing in Boston . Their second son , Edgar , was born on January 19 , 1809 , and a daughter , Rosalie , was born in December 1810 . Some time before July 1809 , however , David Poe had deserted his family , though little is known about his disappearance . He may have died in Norfolk , Virginia on December 11 , 1811 . Eliza Poe died of tuberculosis on December 8 , 1811 , leaving her three children as orphans .

During their mother 's illness , Henry had been left in the care of his paternal grandparents , while Edgar and Rosalie had been cared for by actor friends of their parents , namely Mr. and Mrs. Luke Usher . The children were likely at Eliza 's side as she died . In one of his poems , Henry described her " long ... last farewell " to them and was given a lock of her hair to remember her . After the death of Eliza , the three children were split up . Henry went back to his grandparents in Baltimore , Maryland while Edgar went to live with a foster family , the Allans of Richmond . Rosalie was adopted by the Mackenzies , also of Richmond .

Henry was raised by his grandparents , Elizabeth Cairnes Poe and David Poe , Sr. David Poe , Sr. had been a quartermaster in the American Revolutionary War and paid for supplies out of his own pocket , including \$ 500 for clothing for the troops . His commitment had earned the respect and friendship of the Marquis de LaFayette and the honorary title of " General " . David Poe , Sr. died in 1816 , and his wife , Elizabeth Cairnes Poe , though sickly and bedridden , outlived her grandson and died on July 7 , 1835 .

Henry kept in touch with his younger brother Edgar sporadically as they grew up , often through letters but once he even visited Edgar in Richmond in the 1820s . There , Edgar introduced his brother to his childhood sweetheart , Sarah Elmira Royster . Edgar 's foster @-@ father John Allan also corresponded with Henry . In one letter , dated November 1 , 1824 , Allan apologized that Edgar was slow in writing a letter to Henry , complaining that his foster @-@ son " had little else to do , for he does nothing ... The boy possesses not a Spark of affection for us , not a particle of gratitude for all my care and kindness towards him . "

Before the age of twenty , Henry served in South America and elsewhere on board the USS Macedonian . As a crewman aboard the Macedonian , a frigate , he also visited the West Indies , the Mediterranean , and Russia . In 1827 , he returned to Baltimore to live with his grandmother , his aunt Maria Clemm , and his two cousins Henry Clemm and Virginia Clemm . Around this time , Henry was described as a " slim , feeble , young man with dark inexpressive eyes " who possessed a " singular personal beauty " .

= = = Writings = = =

In Baltimore , while working at a law office , Henry developed his interest in writing . He wrote verse inspired by Lord Byron into the albums of local young women and gave recitations . The May 19 , 1827 , issue of Baltimore 's North American , or , Weekly Journal of Politics , Science , and Literature published Henry 's " Dreams " , a poem which laments the difference between the dream world and reality . The October 27 issue of the same periodical published Henry 's short story " The Pirate " , a fictionalization of his brother 's love affair with Royster . The main character was named Edgar Leonard , a combination of the names of the two brothers , who pursues a woman named Rosalie , a name borrowed from their sister . The Edgar Leonard character says : " I lost my parents at an early age ... and was left to the care of a relation . "

One of Henry 's poems , titled " Original " , was virtually identical to one of Edgar 's early poems published in Tamerlane and Other Poems , now known as " The Happiest Day , The Happiest Hour " . It is likely that this poem and another called " Dreams " were Edgar 's and incorrectly credited to Henry . Edgar wrote " The Happiest Day , The Happiest Hour " while he was serving in the Army . He sent the poem to Henry , who had it published in the September 15 , 1827 , issue of the North American , which included Henry 's name .

Another poem published by Henry was " Lines on a Pocket Book " , in which he considers John Allan 's accusations that younger sister Rosalie Poe was illegitimate . Henry 's poems generally have themes of melancholy , despair , and feature women who die and abandon their loved ones who dream of their reunion . Many are so similar to Poe 's early work that they may have been collaborative efforts . His writing career ended in 1827 when the North American Review ceased publication .

= = = Death = = =

Henry , who was a heavy drinker and may have been an alcoholic , died of tuberculosis on August 1 , 1831 , in Baltimore , likely in the same room or even the same bed which he shared with his brother Edgar . He was twenty @-@ four . Henry was buried at what is now Westminster Hall and Burying Ground , where his brother would be buried several years later . Henry 's obituary misspelled his name as " W. H. Hope " .

= = Influence = =

Edgar Allan Poe was very close to his brother , as he wrote : " there can be no tie more strong than that of brother for brother ? it is not so much that they love one another as that they both love the same parent . " Edgar occasionally used the alias " Henri Le Renet " , a French version of his older brother 's name . He was also inspired by his brother Henry 's travels , often incorporating some of his stories from overseas into tellings of his own life story . The character of August Barnard in Edgar 's novel The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket ( 1838 ) seems to be inspired by Henry , especially in his travels across the sea and his drinking . Poe may have also transformed his brother 's name into the title character in his poem " Lenore " .