

**William Arthur Poe**  
**December 25, 2018**

## The charcoal portrait of Saline-Grant County Pioneers

[Joshua Holiman](#) (13 Dec 1829 North Carolina – 1 May 1902 Grant County, Arkansas)

[Lucretia Ann Hogue](#) (1835 Tennessee-1908 Grant County, Arkansas)

[Arkansas, County Marriages Index, 1837-1957](#) at Ancestry.com

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FHL Film Number:	1287320
Marriage Date:	17 Dec 1852

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Ancestry.com user [jaellis162](#) originally shared the image below on 24 May 2018



Note the inscriptions written above each that identifies Joshua Holiman and Lucretia Hogue Holiman.



This charcoal depicting Joshua Holiman and Lucretia Ann Hogue was misidentified for decades. The recently posted image of the original photograph helps verify their true identity.



Joshua Holiman and Lucretia Ann Hogue charcoal drawing in original frame (1970s).



Maureen Taylor, a columnist with Family Tree Magazine, suggests in an article published in the March 2004 issue of the magazine that the charcoal image was produced in the 1890s. She based her conclusion, in part, on the garment worn by the woman in the image as well as her hairstyle.

The double portrait and the portrait of an individual man hung in our family home in Little Rock from the 1940s through the 1980s. By the early 2000s, the originals, executed on highly acidic material, became

too badly degraded to be preserved—they literally crumbled to pieces during an attempt to reframe them.

The portraits were clearly executed by the same artist and were housed in identical frames. The portrait of the individual has been identified as [William Threet Poe](#) (1817 Anson County, North Carolina – 1884 Grant County, Arkansas) also known as “Judge Poe.” He is buried at Poe Cemetery in Grant County.



The family knew that the double portrait depicted ancestors on my father’s side of the family, but the story told when they came into the possession of our family led to misidentification. My father, [William Eugene Poe](#) (1921-1985), remembered seeing both portraits when, as a boy, he visited the home of his grandparents near Benton, Arkansas, [William Elkin Poe](#) (1852-1929) and [Sarah Elizabeth Holiman](#) (1855-1932). My father later believed the individual portrait was his grandfather and the double image his grandfather’s parents since they hung in his grandfather’s house (a misattribution seemingly verified by another misunderstanding, described below).

During the early 2000s, images of William Elkin Poe surfaced (see below) and it became clear the identification of the portraits were incorrect. The single image is William Threet Poe, verified in part by an oil painting similar to the image, a photocopy of which is in possession of the Grant County Museum (see below).



William Threet Poe was known as “Judge Poe” among the residents of Grant County. Among family members he was called “Uncle Billy” (recollections of [Nancy Bertha Sheppard Byrd](#) and other family historians of Saline-Grant County, particularly the “old” Belfast community where William Threet Poe was proprietor of a general store).

The identity of the double portrait proved more problematic. When it became clear the image could not be William Threet Poe’s parents, the next best guess was that they were [Simon B Poe](#) and [Martha Lucy Hardin](#), grandparents of the [Dr. James Wyatt Walton](#) (1863-1928) whose second wife was my grandfather’s sister, my great aunt, [Sarah Alma Poe](#) (1883-1969), daughter of William Elkin Poe (relation of the William Three Poe and Simon B Poe families is unknown). Both the portrait of William Threet Poe and the double portrait hung in the Benton, Arkansas, home of the then widowed, Sarah Alma Poe Walton. after the death her father, William Elkin Poe, in 1929.

As I was told by my mother, during WWII (with ration coupons provided by her brother who owned a gas station) drove her father-in-law, [Samuel Arthur Poe](#) (1882-1946) (sister to Sarah Alma Poe Walton mentioned above) to visit the community where he grew up and attended school. Samuel Poe (called “Arhtur”) was in bad health and wanted to make a final trip to “old” Belfast and to see if Lost Creek School remained standing. As I recall, mother said the school house was there, but in a bad state.

On the same trip, they went to the Walton home in Benton to visit his sister. Seeing the old portraits on her bedroom wall, my great aunt Alma asked my grandfather if he would like them since she was not interested in keeping them. My mother recalled Aunt Alma stating that the man was their “grandfather” and the double portrait his parents. This information was not accurate, either because Aunt Alma was unsure of their identity at that point in her life, or my mother remembered incorrectly what was said. My father, who saw the portraits at the home of William Elkin Poe, accepted what my mother said upon

his return from WWII. The information passed to me. As a side note, Arthur's wife, my grandmother, [Margaret Emily Davis](#) (1880-1971), herself a daughter of Lucretia Ann Hogue's first cousin, [Nancy Adaline Hogue](#) (Lucretia and Nancy's parents were, respectively, the brothers [Ezekiel](#) and [Hiram](#) Hogue) strongly disliked the pictures and at some point threw them under the house, resulting in termites invading the frames and silverfish eating away at the portraits-explaining the white spots and the rapid disintegration of the cardboard upon which they were drawn.

We can now accurately identify the single portrait as William Threet Poe and the double portrait as Joshua Holiman and Lucretia Ann Hogue, parents of William Threet Poe's son, William Elkin Poe's wife, Sara Elizabeth Holiman.

One can understand how use of the term "grandparents" became confusing over the years.

Sarah Elizabeth Holiman (1855-1932), daughter of Joshua Holiman and Lucretia Ann Hogue

William Elkin Poe (1852-1929), son of William Threet Poe.



*Little Rock Couple Celebrating Golden Wedding Anniversary*



Photos by Shrader  
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Poe.

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Poe, residents of Little Rock the past 25 years, today will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary at their home on the ~~North~~ ~~Rock~~ ~~avenue~~, ~~at~~ ~~an~~ ~~outside~~ ~~the~~ ~~city~~. Mr. Poe is 72 and his wife 70, but both are in excellent health and the celebration will be attended by their seven children and one grandchild.

William Elkin Poe and Sarah Elizabeth Holiman were married December 27, 1874, in Grant county, where both then resided on farms. The young couple established their home on a farm given the husband by his father, and lived there until 1880, when they moved to Little Rock.

Soon after moving here, Mr. Poe opened a mercantile store at Sixth and Center streets, which he operated more than 15 years. In 1893 he was forced to discontinue his business because of ill health, and the family moved to the present home in the suburbs. Since living in the country, J. E. Poe's health has improved steadily and today he is seldom ill.

Mr. Poe was born in Mr. and Mrs. Poe, two being sons. His children are: Sergeant A. Walter, Dr. William O. Mrs. James Wyatt, Denton, Mrs. Harry W. Froelich, of Jacksonville, Fla., Mrs. John T. Cook and Mrs. William Kraish of Little Rock.

Mr. Poe is a son of the late William Threet Poe, former county judge of Grant county. His first visit to Little Rock was with his father in 1861, when he was eight years old. The Civil war had just got under way and Mr. Poe distinctly remembers seeing a large encampment of Confederate soldiers here.



