

Infant burials in the plot 919 Violet, Oakland & Fraternal Historic Cemetery Park, Little Rock, Arkansas

**William Poe
2023**

Going through paper records at Oakland Cemetery in Little Rock about Poe plot, 919 Violet, as well as researching online records at FamilySearch.org, I discovered three previously unknown burials of Poe infants. I also found a Broening infant burial other than the previously known twin Broening boys buried in the plot in 1964.

There is no indication in the records about the parents of the Poe infants, but the likelihood is they were children of Samuel Arthur Poe (Arthur) and his wife, Margaret Emily Davis (Maggie).

The 919 Violet plot was purchased by William Elkin Poe (W. E.) in 1895 to bury his eldest daughter, Dora Ann Poe, and then her sister Minnie Poe, a year later.

By 1925, W. E. had purchased a plot at Roselawn Cemetery in Little Rock and that became the primary cemetery for William Elkin Poe's children as well as being where he and his wife, Sarah Elizabeth Holiman, are buried. Among W.E.'s children, only Arthur and Maggie are buried at Oakland (other than Dora and Minnie).

I have wondered why there was such a large age gap between father, William Eugene Poe, and his siblings, Sam and Margaret. The fact that several children did not survive may explain it. The sex of the infants buried in 1914 and 1918 are not listed. A name was given to the third infant, Mary J Poe, who died in September 1920. William Eugene Poe was born August 7 the following year.

The only other possibility is that one or more of the infants were children of Arthur's siblings, but that is doubtful. His only brothers were William Omar "Sonny" Poe and Walter Edgar Poe.

It was always said that "Sonny" Poe had no children (though that could have meant surviving children). I'm pretty sure if Sonny and his wife, Nancy Calhoun, had children who didn't survive, they would have been buried with the Calhoun family, his wife's people - they were said to be wealthy. Sonny and Nancy lived in a rural part of Pulaski County north of North Little Rock at the Calhoun home.

That leaves Walter Edgar Poe. His first wife, Frances Willard, died in 1925 and is the first interred at the Poe plot at Roselawn Cemetery. Walter and Frances had one daughter, Frances Mae Poe, born in 1921, who was mostly raised by Allie Ruth Poe Cobb, sister of Arthur, Mellie, and Walter. After the death of Frances Willard, Walter married Mildred Allen and had Walter Edgare Poe, Jr. The family soon moved to California and never again lived in Little Rock.

I feel confident the three Poe infants buried at 919 Violet are children of Arthur and Maggie.

About the Broening infant.

It was known that Harry W. Broening, Jr., son of Harry W. Broening, Sr. and his wife Mellie Elizabeth Poe (sister of Arthur, Walter, and Sonny), buried twin boys at 919 Violet in 1964. But we didn't know that Harry Sr and Mellie buried an infant there in 1922. Again, the parents are not listed, but there isn't another reasonable possibility.

About the twin boys buried in 1964, I found a record that mentions they were buried in the same wooden casket at the foot of the plot.

These images might make the above narrative easier to follow.



Margaret Emily Davis
1880-1971



Samuel Arthur Poe Jr
1904-1984



Margaret Ruth Poe
1908-1980



Baby Poe
1914-1914



Baby Poe
1918-1918



Mary J Poe
1920-1920



William Eugene Poe
1921-1985



William Elkin Poe
1853-1929



Sarah Elizabeth Holiman
1856-1932

Siblings ▾

Spouse and children



Harry Wilson Broening
1894-1943



Baby Broening
1922-1922



Harry Wilson Broening Jr
1926-2012



**Martha Elizabeth
Broening**
1930-



Harry Wilson Broening
1894-1943



Mellie Elizabeth Poe
1888-1972

Siblings ▾

Spouse and children



Joan Bearden
1928-2017



Harry Wilson Broening III
1960-



Twin Boys Broening
1964-1964



Daniel Broening
1966-