



# WHAT A POE LIFE



BY KYLE MATHOSIAN

## THE LIFE AND FAME OF EDGAR A. POE



Edgar Poe was born on January 19, 1809 in Virginia and lived there for his whole life. His middle name Allan didn't come until later, after Poe's father (an alcoholic actor) disappeared and his mother (an actress) died of tuberculosis. He was only two years old when he was orphaned, young Edgar was taken in by John Allan, a wealthy Virginia merchant. But the lad's luck never improved much after that tragic start to life. At the age of eighteen he wrote his first poem, it was never published in his lifetime. But this never stopped him and he continued to write more and more. His fame took off when he published his one of his best works titled "Raven". This is what he is known for to this day. He holds the title of "Father of American Detective" genre. Poe died in 1849 shortly after being found roaming the streets of Baltimore in another man's clothes. Some accounts say he was drunk, others say he was delirious. Either way, no one knows what exactly killed him. Had he been beaten? Drugged? Bitten by a rabid cat? Infected with cholera? A new theory seems to emerge every year. Still shrouded in mystery and we may never know his true cause of death.



## HE CROAKED TOO SOON

Poe's design for the cover of The Stylus. The Stylus, originally intended to be named The Penn, was a would-be periodical owned and edited by Edgar Allan Poe. It had long been a dream of Poe to establish an American journal with very high standards in order to elevate the literature of the time. But like people, dreams die as well. This dream happened to die along with him.



## JUST THE FACTS

- ❖ Edgar Allan Poe had two siblings: an older brother William Henry Leonard Poe, and a younger sister Rosalie Poe.
- ❖ By the age of only 13 Edgar Allan Poe had written enough poetry that he could have published his own book.
- ❖ Edgar Allan Poe's first published book (when he was only 18) was titled Tamerlane.
- ❖ Edgar self-published many of his own short stories. One story won a contest sponsored by the Saturday Visitor.
- ❖ After winning the contest with Saturday Visitor he continued to publish his works and the Southern Literary Messenger in Richmond hired him in an editorial position.
- ❖ While working at the Southern Literary Messenger Edgar Allan Poe wrote book reviews and short stories, soon making the magazine the most popular in the south.
- ❖ Poe's criticism of some of the most famous writers at the time earned him a reputation as a 'fearless critic'.
- ❖ Edgar Allan Poe married Virginia Clemm when she was only 13. He was 27 at the time. (As if he wasn't weird enough already.)



# Work Cited

**"Edgar Allan Poe Is Born." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks,  
[www.history.com/this-day-in-history/edgar-allan-poe-is-born](http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/edgar-allan-poe-is-born).**