


Doc Holliday

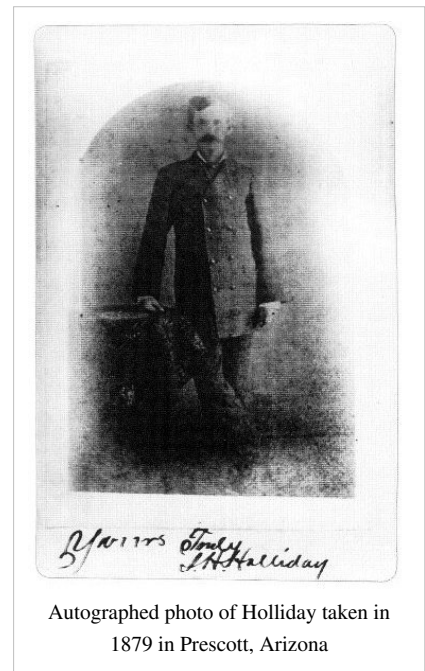
Doc Holliday	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Holliday's dental school graduation photo, age 20, 1872</p>	
Born	John Henry Holliday August 14, 1851 Griffin, Georgia, U.S.
Died	November 8, 1887 (aged 36) Glenwood Springs, Colorado, U.S.
Education	Graduated from Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery in 1872 at age 20
Occupation	Dentist, Professional gambler, Gunfighter
Known for	Arizona War *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral *Earp Vendetta Ride

John Henry "Doc" Holliday (August 14, 1851 – November 8, 1887) was an American gambler, gunfighter and dentist of the American Old West, who is usually remembered for his friendship with Wyatt Earp and his involvement in the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

Early life and education

"Doc" Holliday was born in Griffin, Georgia, to Henry Burroughs Holliday and Alice Jane Holliday (née McKey).^[1] His father served in the Mexican–American War and the Civil War.^[2] His family baptized him at the First Presbyterian Church in 1852.^[3]

In 1864 his family moved to Valdosta, Georgia.^[3] Holliday's mother died of tuberculosis on September 16, 1866, when he was 15 years old.^[1] Three months later his father married Rachel Martin. While in Valdosta, he attended the Valdosta Institute,^[3] where he received a strong classical secondary education in rhetoric, grammar, mathematics, history, and languages – principally Latin, but also French and some Ancient Greek.^[3]^[4]



In 1870, the 19-year-old Holliday left home to begin dental school in Philadelphia. On March 1, 1872, he received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery from the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery.^[1] Later that year, he opened a dental office with Arthur C. Ford in Atlanta,^[4] where he lived with his uncle and his family while beginning his career as a dentist.^[5]

Doc Holliday's famous cousin (by marriage) was Margaret Mitchell, who is best known for having written *Gone With the Wind*.^[6]

Health

According to one source, at birth he had a cleft palate and partly cleft lip, and at two months of age, this defect was repaired surgically by Holliday's uncle, J. S. Holliday, M.D., and a family cousin, the famous physician Crawford Long. According to this source, the repair left no speech impediment, although speech therapy was needed, which was conducted by his mother.^[7] However, a more recent Holliday biographer, Gary L. Roberts, argues that it is unlikely that an infant as young as two months would have undergone cleft palate surgery in that era, as most operations of this type were postponed until the child was around two years old. Roberts asserts that such an early procedure would have been sufficiently noteworthy as to merit mention in local and national media and medical journals. Thus, he considers it doubtful that Holliday had a cleft palate at all, and dismisses the claim that a surgical scar is visible in the graduation photograph. This portrait, taken at the age of 20, supports accounts that Holliday had ash-blond hair. In early adulthood, he stood about 5 feet 10 inches (178 cm) tall and weighed about 160 pounds (70 kg).^[4]

Shortly after beginning his dental practice, Holliday was diagnosed with tuberculosis (generally called "consumption" in that era). It is possible he contracted the disease from his mother, although the clear possibility must remain that he caught the disease from a coughing or sneezing patient. Little or no precaution would have been taken against this during dental procedures as tuberculosis was not known to be contagious until 1882. He was given only a few months to live, but he considered that moving to the drier and warmer southwestern United States might slow the deterioration of his health.^{[1] [4] [8]}

Early travels

In September 1873, he moved to Dallas, Texas, where he opened a dental office at 56 Elm Street, about four blocks east of the site of today's Dealey Plaza.^[9] He soon began gambling and realized this was a more profitable source of income, since patients feared going to his office because of his ongoing cough. On May 12, 1874, Holliday and 12 others were indicted in Dallas for illegal gambling.^[9] He was arrested in Dallas in January 1875 after trading gunfire with a saloon-keeper, but no one was injured and he was found not guilty.^[1] He moved his offices to Denison, Texas, and after being found guilty of, and fined for, "gaming" in Dallas, he decided to leave the state.^[4]

In the years that followed, Holliday had many more such disagreements, fueled by a hot temper and an attitude that death by gun or knife was better than by tuberculosis. The alcohol Holliday used to control his cough may also have contributed. Holliday was in Denver, Cheyenne, and Deadwood (site of the gold rush in the Dakota Territory) in the fall of 1876.

By 1877, Holliday was in Fort Griffin, Texas, where Wyatt Earp first met him (per his later account). They were initially introduced through mutual friend John Shanssey. The two began to form an unlikely friendship; Earp more even-tempered and controlled, Holliday more hot-headed and impulsive. This friendship was cemented in 1878 in Dodge City, Kansas, when Holliday defended Earp in a saloon against a handful of cowboys out to kill Earp, and where both Earp and Holliday had traveled to make money gambling with the cowboys who drove cattle from Texas. Holliday was still practicing dentistry on the side from his rooms in Dodge City, as indicated in an 1878 Dodge newspaper advertisement (he promised money back for less than complete customer satisfaction), but this is the last known time he attempted to practice. In an interview printed in a newspaper later in his life, he said that he practised dentistry only "for about 5 years".

Holliday also met Mary Katharine Horony ("Big Nose Kate") in Fort Griffin and began his long-time involvement with her.

Dedicated gambler and gunman reputation

Holliday had a reputation as a deadly shooter. In September 1878 Wyatt Earp, a deputy city marshal in Dodge City, was surrounded by "desperados." Holliday, who owned a bar in the town and was dealing faro (as he did throughout his life), left the bar, approached from another angle to cover the group with a gun, and either shot or threatened to shoot one of these men. Earp always credited Holliday with saving his life that day.^[10]

One documented instance happened when Holliday was employed during a railroad dispute. On July 19, 1879, Holliday and noted gunman John Joshua Webb were seated in a saloon in Las Vegas, New Mexico when a former U.S. Army scout named Mike Gordon tried to persuade one of the saloon girls to leave her job and come away with him. When she refused, Gordon stormed outside and began firing into the building. Holliday followed him and killed him before he could get off a second shot. Holliday was placed on trial for the shooting but was acquitted, mostly based on the testimony of Webb.^{[11] [12]}

Tombstone, Arizona Territory

Dodge City was not a frontier town for long; by 1879, it had become too respectable for the kinds of people who had seen it through its early days. For many, it was time to move on to places not yet reached by the civilizing railroad, places where money was to be made. Holliday, by this time, was as well known for his prowess as a gunfighter as for his gambling, though the latter was his trade and the former simply a reputation. Through his friendship with Wyatt and the other Earp brothers, especially Morgan and Virgil, Holliday made his way to the silver-mining boom town of Tombstone, Arizona Territory, in September 1880. The Earps had been there since December 1879. Some accounts state the Earps sent for Holliday when they realized the problems they faced in their feud with the Cowboy faction. In Tombstone, Holliday quickly became embroiled in the local politics and violence that led up to the famous Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in October 1881.

The gunfight happened in front of, and next to, Fly's boarding house and picture studio, where Holliday had a room, the day after a late-night of hard drinking and poker by Ike Clanton. The Clantons and McLaurys collected in the space between the boarding house and the house west of it, before being confronted by the Earps. Holliday likely thought they were there specifically to assassinate him.

It is known Holliday carried Virgil's coach gun into the fight; he was given the weapon just before the fight by Wyatt Earp, as Holliday was wearing a long coat which could conceal it. Virgil Earp took Holliday's walking stick: by not going conspicuously armed, Virgil was seeking to avoid panic in the citizenry of Tombstone, and in the Clantons and McLaurys.

An inquest and arraignment hearing determined the gunfight was not a criminal act on the part of Holliday and the Earps. The situation in Tombstone soon grew worse when Virgil Earp was ambushed and permanently injured in December 1881. Then Morgan Earp was ambushed and killed in March 1882. After Morgan's murder, Virgil Earp, the remaining members of the Earp families fled town. Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp stayed in Tombstone to exact retribution on Ike Clanton and the corrupt members known as the cowboys. In Tucson, while Wyatt, Warren Earp, and Holliday were escorting the wounded Virgil Earp and his wife Allie to California, they prevented another ambush and this may have been the start of the vendetta against Morgan's killers.

Earp Vendetta Ride

The first victim of the vendetta was Frank Stilwell, a former deputy of Johnny Behan's. Stilwell was in Tucson to answer a stage-robbery charge but wound up dead on the tracks in the train yard near the Earps' train. What Stilwell was doing in the train yard has never been explained (he may have been waiting to pick up another man who was supposed to testify in his favor), but Wyatt Earp certainly thought Stilwell was there to do the Earps harm. In his biographies, Wyatt admitted to shooting Stilwell with a shotgun. However, Stilwell was found with two shotgun wounds and three bullet wounds. Holliday, who was with Wyatt that night and said Stilwell and Ike Clanton were

waiting in the train yard to assassinate Virgil Earp, is likely the second shooter. Holliday never directly acknowledged his role in Stilwell's killing or those that followed.

After the Earp families left for California and safety, Holliday, Wyatt, Wyatt's younger brother, Warren, and Wyatt's friends Sherman McMasters, Turkey Creek Jack Johnson, and Texas Jack Vermillion rode on a vendetta for three weeks, during which Curly Bill Brocius and at least two other men thought to be responsible for Morgan's death were killed. Eventually, with warrants out for six of the vendetta posse (including Holliday) in the Arizona Territory for the killing of Stilwell, the group moved to New Mexico, then Colorado, in mid-April 1882. While in New Mexico, Wyatt Earp and Holliday had a minor argument and parted ways, going separately to different parts of Colorado.

After the vendetta ride, neither Holliday nor any other member of the party ever returned to Arizona to live. In May 1882, Holliday was arrested in Denver for the Stilwell killing. Due to lack of evidence, Colorado refused to extradite him, although he spent the last two weeks of that month in jail while the issue was decided. He and Wyatt met again in June 1882 in Gunnison after he was released. There is controversy regarding whether any of the Earp vendetta posse slipped briefly back to the Tombstone area to kill Johnny Ringo on July 13, 1882. Biographers of Ringo do not believe it is very likely. Several other known gunmen were also implicated in the death, including "Buckskin" Frank Leslie, little known gunman Lou Cooley, and gambler Mike O'Rourke. Some believe, however, that Ringo's death was in fact a suicide, as reported.

Final illness, death and burial

Holliday spent the rest of his life in Colorado. After a stay in Leadville, he suffered from the effects of the high altitude; as a result of this and his increasing dependence on alcohol and laudanum, often taken by consumptives to ease their symptoms, his health, and evidently his gambling skills, began to deteriorate.

In 1887, prematurely gray and badly ailing, Holliday made his way to the Hotel Glenwood, a sanatorium near the hot springs of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He hoped to take advantage of the reputed curative power of the waters, but the sulfurous fumes from the spring may have done his lungs more harm than good. As he lay dying, Holliday allegedly asked for a drink of whiskey. Amused, he looked at his bootless feet as he died—no one ever thought that he would die in bed, with his boots off. His last words were, "Now, that's funny." John Henry "Doc" Holliday died November 8, 1887. He was 36.^[3]

Recent Holliday biographer Gary L. Roberts, however, considers it unlikely that Holliday, who had scarcely left his bed for two months, would have been able to speak coherently, if at all, on the day he died.^[13] Despite legend, Wyatt Earp was certainly not present when Holliday died, and did not know of his death until months afterward. Though she later attested to attending him in his final days, it is also highly doubtful that Big Nose Kate was present at his death.

An Episcopal minister presided at Holliday's burial, which was on the day of his death, Nov. 8, 1887. His gravestone sits in Linwood Cemetery, which overlooks Glenwood Springs. Entirely on the basis of the late date in the year, it has been speculated (for example)^[14] that he was not actually buried in his marked grave, or even in the cemetery itself, on the theory that the ground was frozen and he must have been buried the same day in what was probably a temporary grave, not in the old cemetery, which was up a difficult road on the mountain. However, the weather was evidently mild at the time of Holliday's burial, as biographer Gary Roberts has located evidence of other bodies being transported up the mountain to the same cemetery at the same time in 1887.^[15] Roberts argues that it is thus possible Holliday's body is indeed where the modern gravesite is, but no exhumation has been attempted.

Character

In an 1896 article, Wyatt Earp had this to say about Holliday, "Doc was a dentist not a lawman or an assassin, whom necessity had made a gambler; a gentleman whom disease had made a frontier vagabond; a philosopher whom life had made a caustic wit; a long lean ash-blond fellow nearly dead with consumption, and at the same time the most skillful gambler and the nerviest, speediest, deadliest man with a six-gun that I ever knew."^[16]

Wyatt Earp is also quoted as saying: "I found him a loyal friend and good company."^[17]

In a newspaper interview, Holliday was once asked if his killings had ever gotten on his conscience. He is reported to have said, "I coughed that up with my lungs, years ago."

Big Nose Kate, his long-time companion, remembered Holliday's reaction after his role in the O.K. Corral gunfight. She reported that Holliday came back to his room, sat on the bed, wept and said, "that was awful — awful".

Virgil Earp, interviewed May 30, 1882, in *The Arizona Daily Star* (two months after Virgil had left Tombstone after Morgan Earp's death), summed up Holliday:

There was something very peculiar about Doc. He was gentlemanly, a good dentist, a friendly man and yet, outside of us boys, I don't think he had a friend in the Territory. Tales were told that he had murdered men in different parts of the country; that he had robbed and committed all manner of crimes, and yet, when persons were asked how they knew it, they could only admit it was hearsay, and that nothing of the kind could really be traced to Doc's account. He was a slender, sickly fellow, but whenever a stage was robbed or a row started, and help was needed, Doc was one of the first to saddle his horse and report for duty.

Record of violence

Although historical accounts have usually supported the belief that Holliday was extremely fast with a pistol, his accuracy was quite well considering the inaccuracy of the pistols at the time. It should be noted that the pistols of the time, even the famed Colt Peacemaker - with the exception of some custom-produced target pistols - had inadequate sights by modern standards, making them notoriously inaccurate weapons. There are documented accounts of men emptying their pistols at each other at distances of 40 feet and no one being hurt. Most actual gunfights occurred in saloons or over poker tables, not out in the street, although these did sometimes happen; even then, they were conducted at almost point-blank range.

In three of his four known pistol fights, he shot one opponent (Billy Allen) in the arm, one (Charles White) across the scalp, and missed one man (a saloon keeper named Charles Austin) entirely. In an early incident in Tombstone in 1880, shortly after he arrived in town, a drunken Holliday managed to shoot Oriental Saloon owner Milt Joyce in the hand, and his bartender Parker in the toe (neither was the man Holliday originally quarreled with). For this, Holliday was fined for assault and battery. With the exception of Mike Gordon in 1879, there are no contemporary newspaper or legal records to match the many unnamed men whom Holliday is credited with shooting to death in popular folklore; the same is true for the several tales of knifings credited to Holliday by early biographers.

Publicly, Holliday could be as fierce as was needed for a gambling man to earn respect. In Tombstone in January 1882, he told Johnny Ringo (as recorded by diarist Parsons), "All I want of you is ten paces out in the street." He and Ringo were prevented from having the gunfight only by the Tombstone police (which did not include the Earps at the time), who arrested them both. Holliday's role in the deaths of Frank Stilwell and the other three men killed on the Earp vendetta ride remains uncertain, but he was present at the events. Holliday is probably the second shooter of Stilwell, he killed Tom McLaury, and either Holliday or Morgan Earp fired the second bullet that ended the life of Frank McLaury. Although Frank McLaury is sometimes erroneously stated to have been hit by three bullets (based on the next-day news accounts in Tombstone papers), at the coroner's inquest, Frank was found to actually have been hit only in the stomach and in the neck under the ear; therefore either Holliday or Morgan missed Frank.

Biographer Karen Holliday Tanner states that of Holliday's 17 known and recorded arrests, only one (1879, Mike Gordon in New Mexico) was for murder. Actually, Tanner is incorrect, since Holliday was arrested and jailed for

murder in connection with both the O.K. Corral fight, and later for the murder of Frank Stilwell. However, in neither case was Holliday successfully charged (the Spicer hearing was an indictment hearing, but it did not recommend indictment; any Stilwell indictment was quashed by Colorado's refusal to extradite). Of the other arrests, Holliday pleaded guilty to two gambling charges, one charge of carrying a deadly weapon in the city (in connection with the argument with Ringo), and one misdemeanor assault and battery charge (his shooting of Joyce and Parker). The others were all dismissed or returned as "not guilty".

Mythology

Claims have been made (on very thin circumstantial evidence) that Holliday was involved in the August 1881 death of Old Man Clanton (Ike and Billy Clanton's father) and four other cowboys in a canyon 100 miles (160 km) from Tombstone, while the cowboys were driving cattle from Mexico. However, Clanton's death in the so-called Guadalupe Canyon Massacre could just as well have been (and is usually assumed to be) a revenge killing by angry Mexican cattle-owners who had recently been the target of rustlers (perhaps not the same men they later killed). Some have taken Holliday's use of a walking stick on the day of the O.K. Corral fight (which he traded Virgil for the shotgun), to be evidence that Holliday had been wounded, perhaps at the death of Old Man Clanton two months before. However, Holliday was known to use a walking stick as early as 1877, since in that year he was arrested for using it as a club on another gambler, in a fight. On that occasion, Holliday actually was wounded in the fight by gunfire, but there is no direct evidence that he was newly wounded in the fall of 1881. Actually the cane was typical; Holliday was physically frail throughout much of his adult life.

One of the better stories about Holliday might not have happened (though the tale has made it into at least one movie). According to the Stuart Lake biography of Wyatt Earp, *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal*, Holliday got into a fight with another gambler (Ed Bailey) in Fort Griffin and knifed the other man to death as the man was drawing a gun on Holliday. Held by the law and targeted for lynching, Holliday was rescued from death by Big Nose Kate, who procured horses, set fire to a building as a diversion, and then drew a gun on the sheriff to allow Holliday's escape. The problem with this story is that no record of any such killing (or Bailey, the man supposedly killed) exists in news or legal accounts of the day. Additionally, Big Nose Kate, at the end of her life in 1940 (after the Lake biography of Earp had appeared in 1931), explicitly denied that the story was true and laughed at the idea of herself holding a gun on a sheriff.

Photo issues

There are many supposed photos of Holliday, most of which do not quite match each other. The one clearly visible adult portrait-photo known to be authentic is the March 1872 Pennsylvania School of Dental Surgery graduation photo taken when Holliday was 20. This photo shows a light-haired man with light and slightly asymmetrical eyes, a thin moustache and fine features. It matches the other known authentic photo, a poor-quality (but signed) standing photo of Holliday taken in Prescott, Arizona Territory, in 1879, the year before he went to Tombstone.

The 1879 standing photo, though certified, is of very poor quality and barely distinguishable. It shows Holliday as not changed a great deal in seven years, though he sports a larger mustache and perhaps also an *imperial* beard (triangular bit of hair left below the middle of the lower lip, combined with a mustache). In the 1879 photo, Holliday is also wearing a tie with a diamond stickpin, which he was known to have worn habitually and which was among his few possessions (minus the diamond) when he died. This stickpin is similar to the one Wyatt Earp was wearing in his own most well-known photo.

There are three photos most often printed (but uncertified) of Holliday, which were supposedly taken by C.S. Fly in Tombstone (but sometimes are said to be taken in Dallas). These clearly show the same man in three different poses and slightly different dress. This man shows some slight differences from the Holliday in the two authentic photos, in which Holliday is clearly the same person, just older. The man in these later uncertified photos has darker hair, possibly a result of the photo technique having more contrast than the previous ones, or it might simply have been

pomaded (a typical fashion at the times) or also unwashed, both cases eventually yielding an "oilier", darker hue.

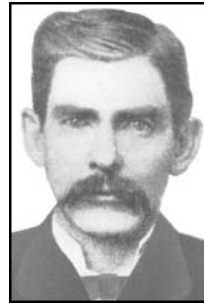
None of the three photos of the darker-haired man match each other exactly in certain clothing details, showing that they are not exactly the same image (though they may well have been poses from the same session, since this man is dressed in the same suit). For example, a cowlick and differently-folded collar is present only in the oval inscribed photo, several different cravats are seen, and the shirt collar and vest change orientation between photos. Although perhaps described by Earp as "squared jawed," his graduation photo shows arched eyebrows and a pointed chin, which are matched by the second authentic 1879 photo, but not in the rest.



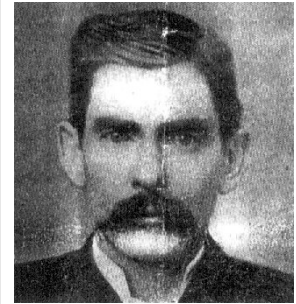
March 1872 age 20



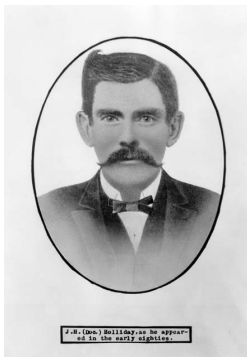
Prescott, Arizona, 1879
age 27



Uncreased print of
supposed 1882
Tombstone photo of
"Doc Holliday", age
30. Left side of
upturned detachable
shirt collar toward
camera, no cowlick.



Creased and darker-toned
version of left Tombstone,
Arizona photo.



Most often reproduced "Doc
Holliday" photo. Heavily
retouched oval-inscribed
portrait, with cowlick,
folded down collar.

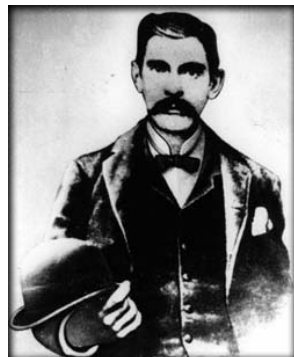


Photo of "Doc Holliday" with
bowler (derby) hat and more
open vest and coat. This is not a
retouch or expanded field
version of any of the photos
above.

The last of the three later supposed photos of Holliday—in which the subject has a more open overcoat, a more open vest (allowing the bowtie cords to be seen), an upturned shirt collar, and is holding a bowler hat (derby hat)—exists as a print in the Cochise County Courthouse Museum in Tombstone. Other sources for it are sought. It is evidently the same dark-haired man shown in the other two photos, but is yet another image (perhaps from the same photo session in which the upturned detachable shirt collar is worn, rather than the folded-down collar of the oval portrait).

Other, even more questionable photos exist as well.

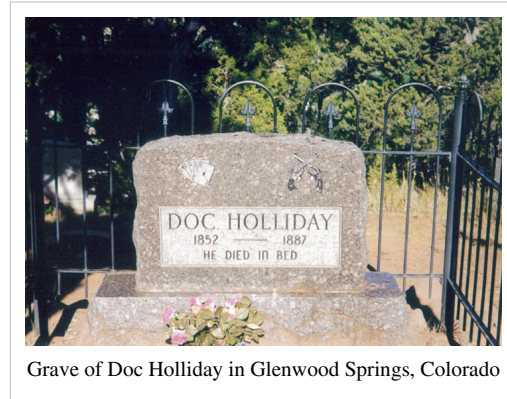
Public memorials

On March 20, 2005, the 122nd anniversary of the killing of Frank Stilwell by Wyatt Earp (most likely with Holliday as the second gunman) a life-sized statue of Holliday and Earp (see photo:^[18]) by the sculptor Dan Bates was dedicated^[19] by the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum ^[20] at the restored Historic Railroad Depot in Tucson, Arizona, at the approximate site of the shooting on the train platform.^[21]

The facial features on this statue are based on the set of supposed portrait photos and not on the two known authentic photos of him.

For a time in the 1970s and 1980s, in Valdosta, Georgia, where he formerly resided, the Holliday Skate Palace, a since defunct roller skating rink, was named in his honor.

In January 2010, to coincide with its sesquicentennial celebration, Valdosta, Georgia held a Doc Holliday look-alike contest.^[22] It was won by local resident Jason Norton.^[23]



Grave of Doc Holliday in Glenwood Springs, Colorado



Popular culture

Holliday was nationally known during his life as a gunman, and the O.K. Corral fight has become one of the most famous moments in the American West. Numerous Westerns have been made of it, and the Holliday character has been prominent in all of them. Not all films however, that feature Doc Holliday, or a character based on him, are biographical in nature.

Actors who have played Holliday in name include:^[24]

- Cesar Romero in *Frontier Marshal*, 1939, plays Doc Halliday, a surgeon, not a dentist, who is ambushed coming out of the Belle Union tavern after performing surgery on the bartender's son. Wyatt Earp single-handedly fights and wins a gunfight against Doc's killers at OK Corral. Doc's tombstone in Boot Hill, the last shot in the film, reads *John Halliday 1848-1880*.
- Walter Huston in *The Outlaw*, in 1943, a Howard Hughes film.
- Victor Mature in *My Darling Clementine*, in 1946, directed by John Ford, with Henry Fonda as Wyatt Earp. Holliday is portrayed as an Eastern-born surgeon fleeing his fiancée because of his tuberculosis and dissolute lifestyle. Writer Alan Barra's comment on this movie is that it shows Holliday as he might have been, if he had been a tough-guy from Boston: "Victor Mature looks about as tubercular as a Kodiak bear." Also, Holliday is killed at the Corral, when in fact he survived it. And Ringo was not even there.
- Kim Spalding in the syndicated television series *Stories of the Century* (1954), starring and hosted by Jim Davis.
- Kirk Douglas in *Gunfight at the OK Corral*, in 1957, with Burt Lancaster as Earp. Again, Holliday's feud with Ringo is a large part of the story, and Ringo dies at the Corral. In fact, he was not involved and committed suicide.
- Douglas Fowley in "The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp" television series 1955-1961. As with many popular portrayals Fowley played Holliday as considerably older than the historical figure. Taking his cue from the popular Kirk Douglas portrayal, Fowley played Holliday as courtly, temperamental and dangerous. Unlike the Kirk Douglas Holliday, whose anger is often volcanic, Fowley's Holliday maintained a cool, gentlemanly Southern calm.
- Gerald Mohr and Peter Breck each played Holliday more than once in the 1957 television series *Maverick*.
- John McLiam played Doc Holliday in the pilot episode of the short-lived 1981 television series *Bret Maverick*.

- Arthur Kennedy played Holliday opposite James Stewart as Earp in director John Ford's *Cheyenne Autumn*.
- Adam West played Doc Holliday on an episode of the TV series *Lawman*.
- Christopher Dark in an 1963 episode of the TV series *Bonanza*.
- Anthony Jacobs in the 1966 *Doctor Who* story *The Gunfighters*.
- Jason Robards in *Hour of the Gun*, a 1967 sequel to the 1957 movie, with James Garner as Earp. This is the first movie to fully delve into the vendetta that followed the gunfight; both films were directed by John Sturges.
- Sam Gilman in the 1968 *Star Trek* episode "Spectre of the Gun". Gilman, who refers to the character as 'Dil Holliday', was 53 years old at the time he played this role. The real Holliday was 30 years old at the time of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.
- Stacy Keach in *Doc*, in 1971, in which the Tombstone events are told from his perspective.
- Bill Fletcher in two episodes of the TV series, *Alias Smith and Jones*: "Which Way to the OK Corral?" in 1971 and "The Ten Days That Shook Kid Curry" in 1972.
- Dennis Hopper in *Wild Times*, a 1980 television mini-series based on Brian Garfield's novel.
- Deadlands in the book *Law Dogs*. Doc Holliday is referred to as the first Hexslinger. It is also claimed that the Indian tribes continue to resurrect him upon death, but never fix his Tuberculosis
- Willie Nelson in the 1986 all-singer/actor TV-remake of *Stagecoach*. In addition to the alcoholic Doc Boone character of the original film, the remake adds a new "Doc Holliday", also a medical doctor, and a consumptive. Since Doc Boone in the original film is loosely based on Holliday, the remake now contains two characters based on Holliday. If the character of the Southern-gentleman-gambler Hatfield is also partly based on Holliday (being played by the thin John Carradine, for emphasis, in the original film), then the 1986 remake actually contains *three* characters in whole or partly based on Holliday.
- Val Kilmer in *Tombstone*, in 1993. Sylvia D. Lynch in *Aristocracy's Outlaw* believes Kilmer caught Holliday's cheerful mix of despair and courage. But his last fight with Ringo is fiction. He was miles away, in court, when Ringo either committed suicide, or was killed.
- Dennis Quaid in *Wyatt Earp*, in 1994, a detailed bio-epic of Wyatt Earp's life where Quaid plays an oft drunk Doc Holliday with a relationship with Big Nose Kate.
- Randy Quaid in *Purgatory*, a 1999 TV film about dead outlaws in a town between Heaven and Hell.

Doc Holliday days are held yearly in Doc's birthplace of Griffin, Georgia.

Fiction

- *Territory* by Emma Bull, copyright 2007 ISBN 978-0-8125-4836-5.
- *Merkabah Rider: The Mensch With No Name* (by Edward M. Erdelac, 2010, ISBN 978-1-61572-190-0)
- *Bucking the Tiger: A Novel* by Bruce Olds, copyright 2002 ISBN 978-0-312-42024-6
- *The Buntline Special' ' by Mike Resnick, copyright 2010, ISBN 978-1-61614-249-0*
- *Deadlands ' ' a tabletop roly playing game produced by Pinnacle Entertainment Group in the book titled Law Dogs, Copyright 1996, ISBD 978-1889546261*

Songs

- "Guns of Arizona", Written by David John and performed by David John and the Comstock Cowboys on the album "Legends of the West".
- "Linwood", Written & performed by Jon Chandler on the CD "The Grand Dame of the Rockies - Songs of the Hotel Colorado and the Roaring Fork Valley." Winner of the 2009 Western Writers of America's Spur Award for Best Song.

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