



Friends of Gillette Castle State Park

Memorable Dates in William Gillette and Sherlock Holmes History
Organized by John C. Sherwood

DECEMBER 2020

Dec. 1, 1887: The character of Sherlock Holmes is introduced to the reading public as Ward, Lock & Co. puts Beeton's Christmas Annual on sale. The publication features Arthur Conan Doyle's first tale about the detective, the novel "**A Study in Scarlet.**"

Dec. 7, 1934: At Chris Cella's restaurant in New York City, William Gillette attends **the second dinner meeting of the recently formed Baker Street Irregulars.** Also attending are the organization's founder, Christopher Morley, the artist Frederic Dorr Steele, Sherlock Holmes scholar Vincent Starrett and Archie Macdonnell, founder of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

Dec. 20, 1932: William Gillette's houseboat "**Aunt Polly,**" which had been the actor's chief residence from 1901 until 1919, **is destroyed by fire at its steamboat landing at the foot of the "Seventh Sister" hill along the Connecticut River.** Firefighters from the East Haddam Volunteer Fire Company battle the flames in vain. The blaze's cause remains undetermined. The wreck became the focus of archeological studies in 2003.