



Friends of Gillette Castle State Park

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

JULY 2021

The text **in boldface type** highlights the answer to this month's trivia questions.

July 7, 1930 – Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle dies at his home, Windlesham, in Crowborough, England. Doyle, a medical doctor as well as a prolific writer of fiction and nonfiction, is best remembered today for having created the character of Sherlock Holmes. Beginning with the publication of “A Study in Scarlet” in 1887, Doyle wrote four novels and 56 short stories about the character. In 1899, Doyle allowed William Gillette to revise and develop his initial attempt at a play about the character, which Gillette performed more than 1,300 times.

July 24, 1853 – Birth of William Hooker Gillette in Hartford, Connecticut, to Francis Gillette and Elisabeth Hooker Gillette. William is the last of the couple's six children. As an actor-manager, playwright and stage manager, he will become famous in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for his acting skills and as the author of several popular plays. He is best remembered today for having portrayed Sherlock Holmes on stage approximately 1,300 times over 33 years and in a 1916 silent film that was lost until 2014 and subsequently restored.

July 31, 1986 – Gillette Castle is added to the National Register of Historic Places. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources.