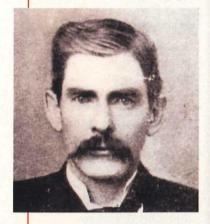


## **Doc Holliday**



In 1907, Bat Masterson wrote an article on Holliday in *Human Life* magazine that included what is still a mystery

photo (above). It is cropped below the neck and around the head, and appears to have been cut from another photograph, perhaps from a group photo. The hairline, eyes and chin have been retouched.

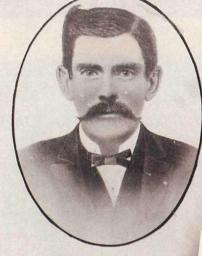
The original has never been found, and although the image has been published countless times, all versions apparently derive from the *Human Life* photograph. Author Stuart Lake used it in *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal*, with this caption: "This photograph, made by C. S. Fly in Tombstone, 1881, was the only one Doc Holliday ever had taken."

In 1973, the Holliday family released a portrait photo of Doc that had unquestionable authenticity (below). He had given it to his cousin Mattie, and it shows what he looked like at age 20.

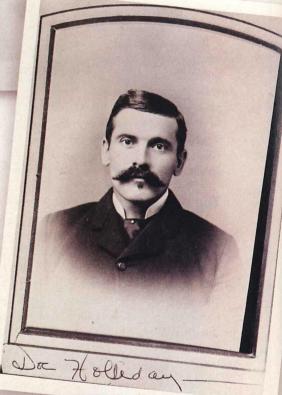
When this photo surfaced, some historians began to question the photo used by Masterson in 1907. But wouldn't Masterson have known if his photo was of Holliday? They knew each other. And wouldn't Stuart Lake have discussed the photo with Wyatt Earp?

When the retouching is removed from both Rose's and the *Human Life* photos, the resulting image looks, in my opinion, much closer to the authentic photo of the 20-year-old Holliday.





J.H. (Doc.) Holliday, as he appear-



Another popular photo

of Holliday (above) isn't him at all. Rather, it's a handsome guy with an imperial (a tuft of hair growing under the lower lip). Val Kilmer and Dennis Quaid used this likeness in their portrayals of Holliday in the movies *Tombstone* and *Wyatt Earp*.

A copy of this photo was presented to the Arizona Historical Society after being discovered in a family album of someone who "had been a mining engineer in Tombstone in the 80s." The AHS then filed it as Doc Holliday and supplied it to numerous people requesting his picture.

Since then, the individual in the photo has been identified as John Escapule.

