

Billy the Kid's Gravesite

Legendary outlaw Billy the Kid was killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett and buried in Fort Sumner. Billy the Kid, also known as Henry McCarty, Henry Antrim and William H. Bonney was a 19th century American frontier outlaw and gunman who participated in the Lincoln County War. According to legend, he killed 21 men.

McCarty (or Bonney, the name he used at the height of his notoriety) was 5 ft. 8 in. to 5 ft. 9 in. tall with blue eyes, a smooth complexion, and prominent front

teeth. He was said to be friendly and personable at times. Relatively unknown during most of his lifetime, Billy was catapulted into legend a few months before his death by New Mexico's governor, Lew Wallace, who placed a price on his head. Sheriff Pat Garrett shot and killed Billy the Kid July 14, 1881. Billy was buried the next day in Fort Sumner's old military cemetery, between his fallen companions Tom O'Folliard and Charlie Bowdre. A single tombstone was later erected over the graves with a one word epitaph of "Pals" carved into it.

The tombstone has been stolen and recovered three times since it was set in place in the 1940s, and the entire gravesite is now enclosed within a steel cage. Following his execution by



photos were written that depicted the Kid as Robin Hood.







**BILLY THE KID'S
ELUSIVE TOMBSTONE**

- BILLY THE KID'S TOMBSTONE WAS STOLEN IN 1981. ITS LOCATION WAS A MYSTERY FOR TWENTY-SIX YEARS UNTIL THE MONUMENT WAS RECOVERED IN GRANBURY, TEXAS BY JOE BOWEN.
- THE TOMBSTONE WAS STOLEN AGAIN ON FEB. 8, 1993 AND RECOVERED FOUR DAYS LATER IN HUNTINGTON, BEACH CALIFORNIA.
- BOWEN'S SOURCE KING WAS SHOT FOR CHARGES COUNTY BREAST "BIG JIM" M. BARGE, TO FLY TO LOS ANGELES TO RECOVER THE MONUMENT.
- CHARGES OFFICIALLY BLIND WITH JAMES R. GARRETT, OFFICIALLY BAPT THE TOMBSTONE IN 1981. SPARKED AT BILLY'S FEET ON MAY 30, 1981.

• OLD FORT SUMNER MUSEUM •

CONTAINS HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS
OF BILLY THE KID AND GARRETT



Address

Old Fort Sumner Cemetery
Fort Sumner, NM 88119
United States

[View in Google Maps](#)

**34.4037312201, -
104.19327388623**

