

## Old Deadwood Cemetery Burial

While replacing a retaining wall in 2012, construction workers unearthed the remains of one of Deadwood's early residents. Prior to the discovery, archaeologists from the South Dakota State Archaeological Research Center (SD-SARC) were monitoring the construction site when the burial was discovered. Upon discovery, city officials notified local authorities and archaeologists began removing the burial. In 2013, remains will be examined by a forensic anthropologist to determine the age, sex, and ethnicity of the individual. At the conclusion of the project, the City of Deadwood will rebury the remains in Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

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# Skeletal remains found in Deadwood yard for second time

BY JACI CONRAD PEARSON  
*Black Hills Pioneer*

DEADWOOD — For the second time, the ghost of cemeteries past has once again visited the house at 66 Taylor Ave. in Deadwood.

When the digging for a retaining wall commenced Monday morning what appeared to be century-old skeletal remains were unearthed for the second time in the last 10 years.

The home is situated on the former site of Deadwood's first cemetery — the Ingleside Cemetery used from 1876 to 1878.

"They started digging at around 10 a.m. and I got the call saying they'd found skeletal remains at 3:06 later that afternoon and I came up here immediately," said Deadwood Historic Preservation Officer Kevin Kuchenbecker. "We have a map that shows the approximate boundaries of the former cemetery, so whenever we excavate in this area, we require a qualified archaeologist to be onsite."

Katie Lamie, archaeologist and repository manager with the South Dakota State Historical Society Archaeological Research Center, said that her crew almost had the whole retaining wall trench dug before the scoop that revealed skeletal remains was exhumed.

"There were no artifacts in the soil, nothing there around it, which is very unusual," Lamie said. "Normally, we're sifting through debris and artifacts of some sort. Now we're just sifting through dirt for the skeletal remains, which, right now, is skull fragments and vertebrae, and we do have some coffin nails. The tree roots really disturbed the site a lot."

The same address revealed skeletal remains that were later interred at Mt. Moriah Cemetery in 2006. Ingleside Cemetery was in use from 1876 to 1878, when an effort was made to move all the bodies there to Mount Moriah for interment.

Evidently, a clean sweep did not ensue, as once again, six years later, the same official procedures were required to be followed.

"The sheriff and Mike (Runge), our archivist, came up there with me. We then contacted the coroner, the state archivist and the proper protocol was followed," Kuchenbecker said. "There is noth-

ing to indicate foul play and it appears evident that the remains date back a century or more."

The residents of the home are overjoyed at the find, feeling that it validates their suspicions of spirits living among them.

"I think it's awesome," said Kelly Forward, who rents the house from owner Mike Hall of Sioux Falls. "There's paranormal activity in this house all over the place. My nephew's heard footsteps in the basement. I've heard people walking around. It's great. I think it's cool."

Lamie said that once the remains are exhumed, they will go back to the state archaeological research center in Rapid City for initial inventory and diagnostics by a forensic anthropologist, which will answer such questions as which bones, age, gender, heritage.

Archaeologists will also try to find out the identity of the individual and if there are any descendants in the area. That process will take approximately 12 months. If no

See SKELETAL — Page 35

## SKELETAL Continued from Page 1

one lays claim to the body and no descendants are found, the remains will be buried at Mt. Moriah right alongside the last set of remains that were recovered from the property in 2006.

"We've set aside an area right above Mt. Moriah and below Seth Bullock's grave," Kuchenbecker said.

Kuchenbecker said that the project to be completed is the replacement of a retaining wall on the upper side of 66 Taylor Ave., which is failing and moving toward the residence, which is a contributing historical structure on the historic register.

"The wall will be replaced to protect the resource," Kuchenbecker said.

Crews were working to delicately remove the skeletal remains and hoped to finish by end of day Tuesday.

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Kelly Forward, tenant of 66 Taylor Avenue