

HistoryLink

A TRAIL TO DEADWOOD'S PAST



THEODORE ROOSEVELT

SETH BULLOCK

A FRIENDSHIP LIKE NO OTHER

No 1 of 8

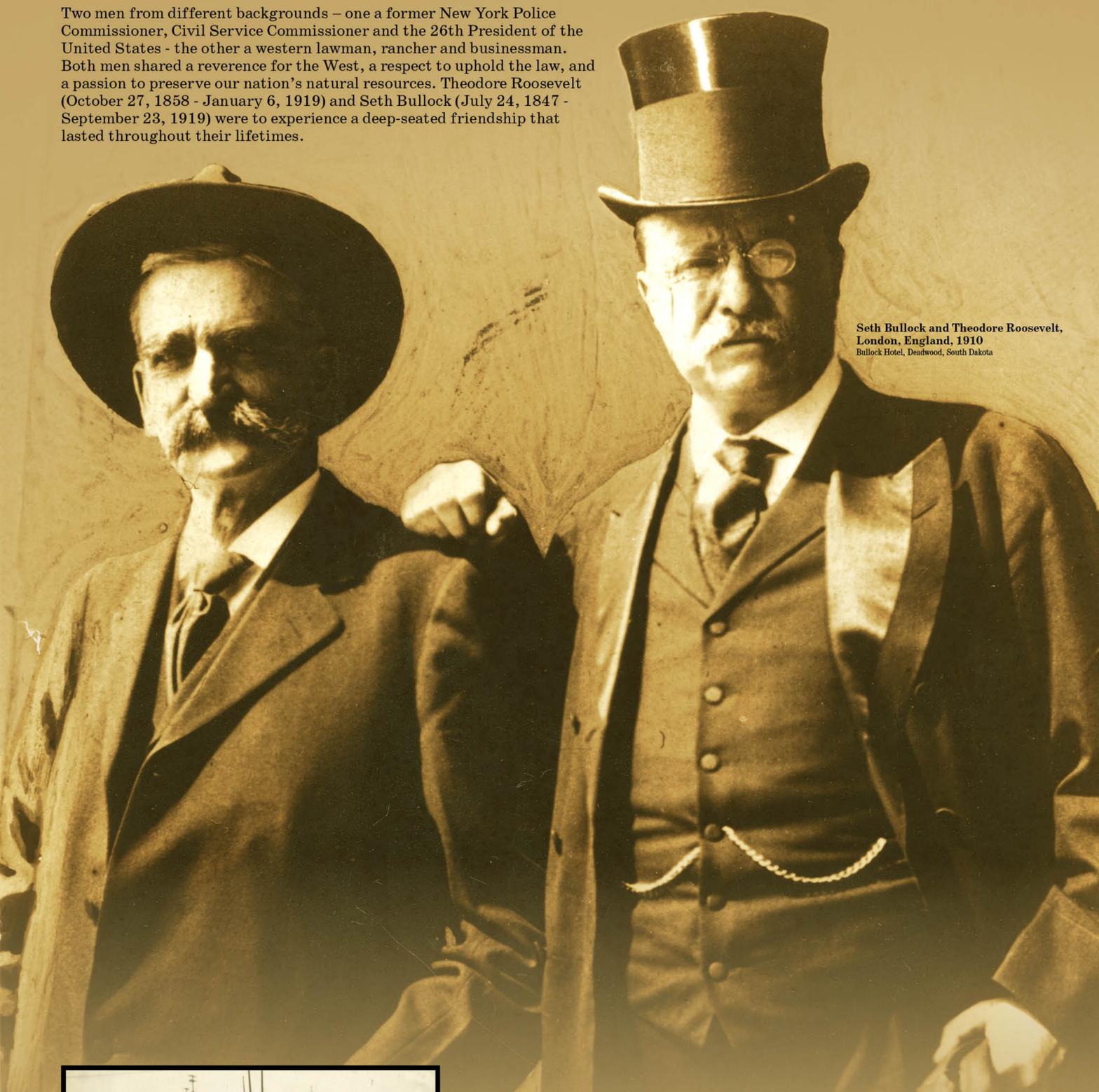
“Col. [Theodore] Roosevelt admired and loved the romance of Western life and Seth Bullock embodied in his character and career much of that romance.”

– Seth Bullock’s obituary, *Daily Deadwood Pioneer-Times*, September 24, 1919 –

“Seth Bullock was a hero worshiper and father [Theodore Roosevelt] was his great hero.”

– *The Happy Hunting-Grounds*, Kermit Roosevelt –

Two men from different backgrounds – one a former New York Police Commissioner, Civil Service Commissioner and the 26th President of the United States - the other a western lawman, rancher and businessman. Both men shared a reverence for the West, a respect to uphold the law, and a passion to preserve our nation’s natural resources. Theodore Roosevelt (October 27, 1858 - January 6, 1919) and Seth Bullock (July 24, 1847 - September 23, 1919) were to experience a deep-seated friendship that lasted throughout their lifetimes.



Seth Bullock and Theodore Roosevelt, London, England, 1910
Bullock Hotel, Deadwood, South Dakota



The year 2019 commemorates the 100th anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt’s and Seth Bullock’s deaths and the dedication of Mount Theodore Roosevelt – the first monument dedicated in memory of Roosevelt. The following exhibit is an assemblage of personal letters, newspaper articles, political advertisements and photographs that were compiled from an assortment of public and private archives, museums and libraries within the United States. Combined, these documents help chronicle the twenty-seven year friendship between Theodore Roosevelt and Seth Bullock.

Carol Dotson (driver), Mayor George Burnside (front passenger), Seth Bullock, and President Roosevelt, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 1910.
Siouxland Heritage Museums, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Mount Theodore Roosevelt and Tower, located three miles west of Deadwood, South Dakota, circa 1920.
City of Deadwood Archives



THE BEGINNING OF A FRIENDSHIP

“The good citizen will demand liberty for himself, and as a matter of pride will see to it that others receive liberty which thus claims as his own.”

– Theodore Roosevelt, 1910 “Citizenship in a Republic” Speech –

A Chance Encounter August 1892

In the summer of 1892, acting upon the request of the Indian Welfare Service, U.S. Civil Service Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt agreed to observe conditions on Indian Reservations in western South Dakota. Roosevelt was not a stranger to this region of the United States.

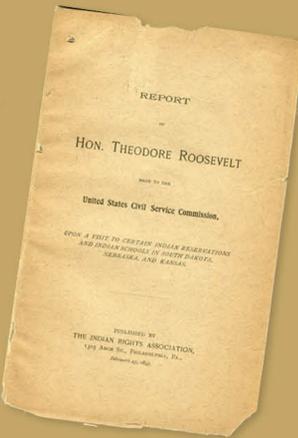
A NOTABLE VISITOR.
Theodore Roosevelt, New York City's Coming Man, Visits Us and Talks Politics. Wm. McIntyre on the Tariff Question.
Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, one of New York City's civil service commissioners and alderman from the "tenderloin" district, unceremoniously dropped into the city yesterday from his cow ranch in the northern part of the state, having driven the entire distance in his buggy. His visit was wholly unexpected, and was like a bomb thrown amongst us. He came not in the Jewish habiliments of the effete east, but dressed as unceremoniously as was his visit. Being an old acquaintance of ex-Senator Moody, the republican wheel horse of the state, he sought that gentleman, who introduced him to almost every republican of prominence in the city. Being on the eve of the political campaign, and knowing Mr. Roosevelt's reputation as a keen politician and able speaker, the thought suggested itself why not call a rally of the republican boys and let Mr. Roosevelt tell them something about the government and its administration.

Ten years prior, while in his twenties, Roosevelt owned and operated two cattle ranches, the Maltese Cross and the Elkhorn near Medora, North Dakota. After a brief visit to his ranch, Roosevelt traveled south to Deadwood, South Dakota before heading east to the reservation lands. Somewhere along the Belle Fourche River Valley (near today's Belle Fourche, South Dakota), Roosevelt and his party crossed paths with former lawman and landowner Seth Bullock. A written account of this chance meeting appeared in Roosevelt's 1913 autobiography stating,

“We had a rather rough trip, and had lain out for a fortnight... Seth [Bullock] received us with rather distant courtesy at first, but unbent when he found out who we were, remarking, ‘You see by your looks, I thought you were some kind of a tin-horn gambling outfit, and that I might have to keep an eye on you!’”

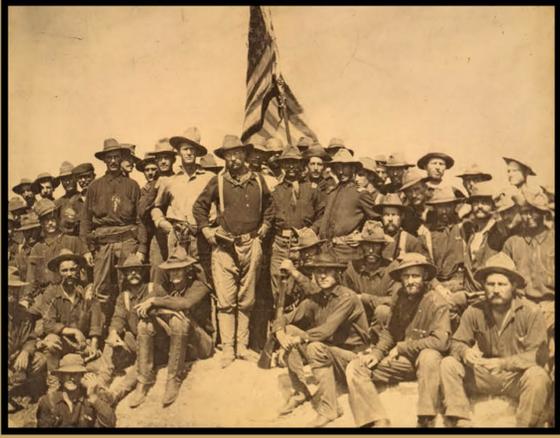
After this meeting, Roosevelt and his party traveled to Deadwood where he was persuaded to deliver an impromptu speech for the local Republican Party. The Black Hills Daily Times recorded Roosevelt's arrival, speech and departure.

In later years Bullock and Roosevelt's first meeting would be greatly embellished, causing confusion as to the time and location. Despite this humble beginning, their involvement in the Spanish-American War helped solidify their friendship in the ensuing years.



Cover of Theodore Roosevelt's 1893 report to the United States Civil Service Commission. Garry Austin and Austin Antiquarian Books, Wilmington, Vermont (TheodoreRooseveltBooks.com)

August 26, 1892 Black Hills Daily Times newspaper article on Theodore Roosevelt's arrival in Deadwood, South Dakota. Centennial Archives, Deadwood Public Library



Colonel Roosevelt and his Rough Riders at the top of the hill which they captured, Battle of San Juan, 1898. Library of Congress Prints & Photographs, Online Catalog

Second and Third U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiments to serve along with regular soldiers. Upon hearing the declaration, Theodore Roosevelt resigned from his post as Assistant Secretary of the Navy to accept an appointment as Lieutenant Colonel of the First Volunteer Cavalry. Roosevelt's regiment gained national notoriety for its assault on and capture of San Juan Hill, Cuba on July 1, 1898 and would forever be referred to as “Roosevelt's Rough Riders.”

Making of a Captain

In South Dakota, Attorney General Melvin Grigsby, under presidential order of William McKinley, began recruiting for the Third Volunteer Cavalry. Grigsby enlisted the help of Deadwood resident and former lawman Seth Bullock to help recruit local miners and cowboys for the regiment. Recruitment began on May 2, 1898 and within six days, the Black Hills contingent, known as the “Black Hills Squadron” consisting of Troops A, C and D, were mustered into service. Bullock would serve as Captain of Troop A. While Roosevelt led a charge on San Juan Hill, Cuba, Bullock oversaw the training and care of “Grigsby's Cowboys” at Fort Thomas in Chickamauga, Georgia.



Captain Bullock inspecting Troop A kitchen, Fort Thomas, Chickamauga, Georgia. Leland D. Case Library, Black Hills State University

February 15, 1898 explosion of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor, Cuba. Library of Congress Prints & Photographs, Online Catalog

Spanish-American War April 21, 1898 – August 13, 1898

Prerequisite for War

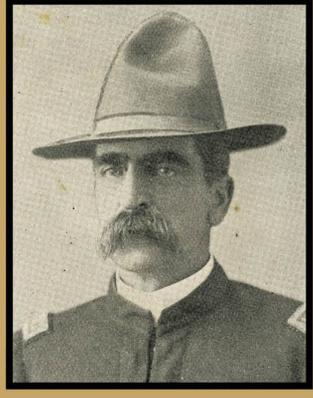
The onset of the 1890s brought a stream of international tensions between the United States and Spain over the independence of Cuba from Spanish colonial rule. The sinking of the battleship *U.S.S. Maine* in Havana Harbor, Cuba on February 15, 1898 was to become the final rallying cry for war against Spain. In the ensuing months, patriotic fervor swept across the United States. Theodore Roosevelt and Seth Bullock joined men from all walks of life, creed, political background and nationality to take up the call of arms against Spain.

Making of a Colonel

After Congress declared war with Spain on April 25, 1898, Congress authorized three cavalry regiments known as the First,



1898 photograph of Col. Theodore Roosevelt in uniform. Library of Congress Prints & Photographs, Online Catalog



Portrait of Seth Bullock, Captain of Troop A, Third Volunteer Cavalry, under Lt. Col. Melvin Grigsby. Leland D. Case Library, Black Hills State University

Following the War

Following the war, Roosevelt and Bullock capitalized on their military exploits despite having greatly varied experiences. In the political arena, Roosevelt was elected Governor of New York in November 1898 and Republican Vice-President two years later in 1900. As part of his political campaign, Roosevelt invited and enlisted the help of former Spanish-American War veterans and cowboys at the various public functions throughout the nation.

Bullock returned to Deadwood and the Black Hills a noted military veteran with a new found respect amongst his fellow citizens. Both men continued to use their military titles for the remainder of their lives as seen in the numerous letters of correspondence between both men and their peers from 1901 through 1919.





THEODORE ROOSEVELT



SETH BULLOCK



THE MEN IN THE ARENA

No 3 of 8

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, ... who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement

– Theodore Roosevelt, 1910 “Citizenship in a Republic” Speech –

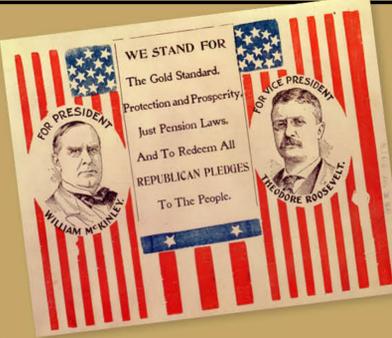
Republican Campaign Trail 1900

In June of 1900, New York Governor Theodore Roosevelt was nominated and accepted the vice-presidential nomination during the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As part of the national Republican ticket, Roosevelt took to the country on a whistle stop train tour of twenty-four states, delivering over 600 speeches and traveling 21,000 miles.

Throughout his campaign tour, Roosevelt enlisted the help of Spanish-American War veterans and cowboys to facilitate his entry and exit from the communities he visited. Local South Dakota newspapers including the Mitchell Capital dated August 31, 1900, printed this advertisement seeking able bodied cowboys with horses to greet Roosevelt at the train station.



August 31, 1900 Mitchell Capital newspaper advertisement Newspapers.com



Campaign poster for William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, circa 1900 Library of Congress Prints & Photographs, Online Catalog

September 27, 1900 Weekly Pioneer Times newspaper article on Theodore Roosevelt's arrival in Deadwood, South Dakota. Centennial Archives, Deadwood Public Library

Prior to Roosevelt's arrival on October 3, 1900, Bullock wired the local Deadwood newspapers about organizing a nonpartisan stopover exclaiming,

“YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE HILLS FOR THERE IS IN THE PARTY WITH ROOSEVELT NEWSPAPER MEN FROM ALL OVER THE EAST. IT WILL ADVERTISE THE HILLS AS NOTHING ELSE COULD.”

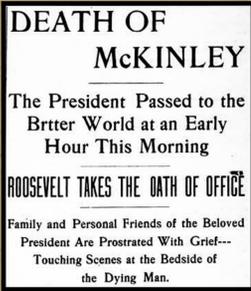
Roosevelt's train rolled into Deadwood Gulch on the evening of October 3, 1900, placing Deadwood, its citizens and the Black Hills of South Dakota in the national arena. Both local and national newspapers chronicled this campaign stop in great detail. The outcome of Roosevelt's 1900 campaign tour would have a profound effect on Bullock's life. Within one year of this event, Bullock found himself in service to the President of the United States.

MAKE IT NON-PARTISAN.
The Roosevelt Reception Should Appeal to Everyone.
Capt. Bullock who toured the eastern part of the state with the Roosevelt party writes from Minneapolis, regarding the governor's visit to the Hills:
“The reception and ovation given to Roosevelt in the eastern part of the state, to be equaled in the Black Hills, will require the aid and energy of everyone there. Without this can be assured, it will be useless to invite the governor to the Hills.
“I would suggest that you unite in one general program for his reception. He will speak at Deadwood and also at Lead, and you should have at least one thousand torches in the procession.
“My idea is to take him from Deadwood to Lead in a coach, and have the torches lit up with bonfires all the way.
“It should be a broad gauge affair, participated in by every resident of the Hills, regardless of politics, and must be a success. Get all the cowboys you can from the ranges with their horses—have them in Deadwood. If you can, for once get the Deadwood people together, get them all to work.
“YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE HILLS, FOR THERE IS IN THE PARTY WITH ROOSEVELT NEWSPAPER MEN FROM ALL OVER THE EAST. IT WILL ADVERTISE THE HILLS AS NOTHING ELSE COULD.
“Have at least two Deadwood coaches in the procession, and not less than 1000 torches, with red fire gear.”

Federal Men 1901 - 1909

William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt were elected as President and as Vice President of the United States on November 6, 1900. Ten months later, on September 14, 1901, Roosevelt became the 26th President of the United States following the assassination of McKinley during the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. According to Roosevelt's autobiography,

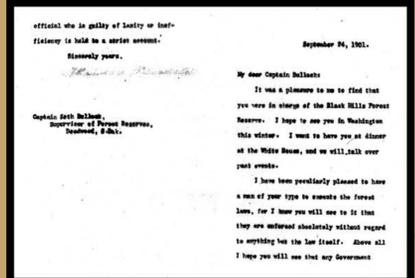
“I at once announced that I would continue unchanged McKinley's policies for the honor and prosperity of the country, and I asked all members of the Cabinet to stay. There were no changes made among them save as changes were made among their successors whom I myself appointed.”



Headlines from the Lead Daily Call newspaper dated September 14, 1901 newspapers.com

US Supervisor, Black Hills Forest Reserve 1901 – 1905

Being a friend of the newly elected President of the United States had its benefits. Ten days after Roosevelt was sworn into office, Seth Bullock received a congratulatory letter from the President dated September 24, 1901 on becoming the forest supervisor for the Black Hills Forest Reserve.

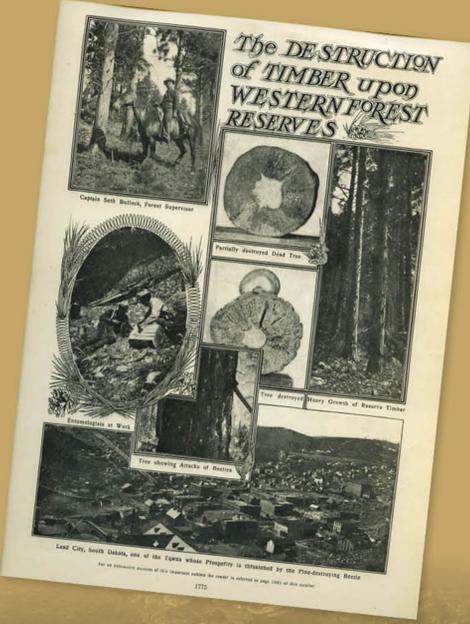


September 24, 1901 congratulatory letter to Seth Bullock from President Theodore Roosevelt Theodore Roosevelt Center, Dickinson State University

Bullock held this federal appointment for four and a half years. During his tenure Bullock introduced and upheld regulatory policies aimed at efficiently managing the forest and its natural resources under a multiple-use philosophy. Bullock combated the Black Hills Pine Beetle

and introduced the idea of reforesting burned areas within the reserve. Bullock's success as the forest manager earned him additional federal appointments including Superintendent of Wind Cave in 1902 and the management of Slim Buttes, Cave Hills, and Short Pine Hills forest reserves in northwestern South Dakota. In 1905, President Roosevelt appointed Bullock US Marshal for the State of South Dakota. Bullock held this position for eight years, operating two offices in the cities of Sioux Falls and Deadwood, South Dakota.

November 29, 1902 Harpers Weekly magazine City of Deadwood Archives

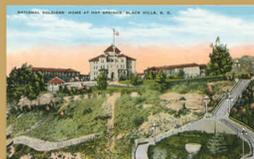


The Roosevelt Administration in South Dakota and eastern Wyoming 1901 to 1909

Multiple volumes have been published on the political accomplishments of Theodore Roosevelt while in office. In South Dakota and eastern Wyoming, the Roosevelt Administration established the Battle Mountain Sanatorium, a division of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1902, Wind Cave National Park in 1903, the Belle Fourche Irrigation District in 1904, Devils Tower National Monument in 1906, and Jewel Cave National Monument in 1908.



Postcard of Belle Fourche Irrigation Reservoir South Dakota State Historical Society, South Dakota Digital Archives (2008-05-27-036)



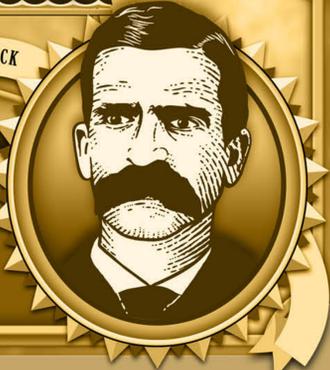
Postcard of the National Soldiers Home and Battle Mountain Sanatorium, Hot Springs, South Dakota South Dakota State Historical Society, South Dakota Digital Archives (2008-03-10-038)

Tour group in Wind Cave National Park, August 20, 1903 Wind Cave National Park Archives





THEODORE ROOSEVELT



SETH BULLOCK

THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

No 4 of 8

“I owe more than I can ever express to the West, which of course means to the men and women I met in the West.”

— Theodore Roosevelt, 1913 Autobiography —

From 1901 until his death in 1919, Seth Bullock became one of Theodore Roosevelt's staunchest and most valued friends. Bullock's success as the Black Hills Forest Supervisor and later US Marshal earned him the confidence, respect and trust of Theodore and the Roosevelt family. Though Roosevelt and Bullock were from opposite sides of the social scale, each man was to include the other into their inner circles.

Theodore Roosevelt and the Society of Black Hills Pioneers

April 25, 1903 Edgemont, South Dakota

On April 25, 1903, President Roosevelt and an entourage of delegates and newspaper reporters arrived in Edgemont, South Dakota as part of the whistle stop train tour. At the conclusion of his speech, Roosevelt was bestowed as an honorary member of the Society of Black Hills Pioneers, under Bullock's recommendation. Roosevelt was to become one of only two individuals to receive this honor in the organization.



President Theodore Roosevelt delivering a speech in Edgemont, South Dakota, April 25, 1903
South Dakota Magazine



Society of Black Hills Pioneers membership ribbon
City of Deadwood Archives



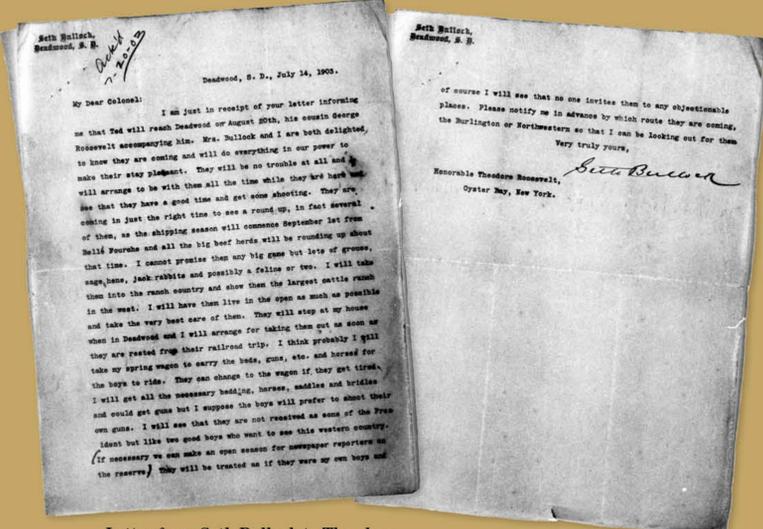
April 8, 1904 Washington Times newspaper article chronicling Seth Bullock's visit to the White House.
Newspapers.com

A Rite of Passage: Seth Bullock and the Roosevelt Boys

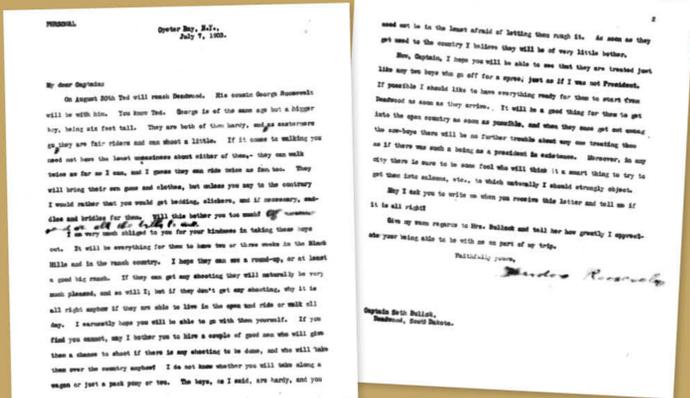
1903 – 1909

In the summers of 1903, 1905, 1907 and 1909, Roosevelt's children, Theodore Jr., Kermit and Archibald traveled west to spend time with Bullock in the ranch country of western South Dakota.

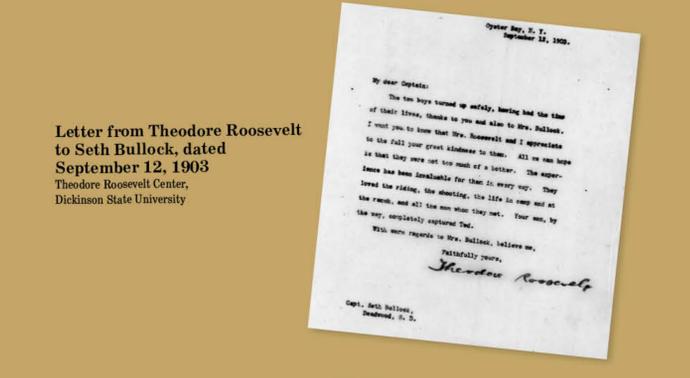
Several digital letters of correspondence on file at the Theodore Roosevelt Center, Dickinson State University chronicle the arrangement of Theodore Jr. and cousin George Roosevelt's 1903 trip to Bullock's Ranch in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. These letters capture the level of trust and compassion between Bullock and Roosevelt.



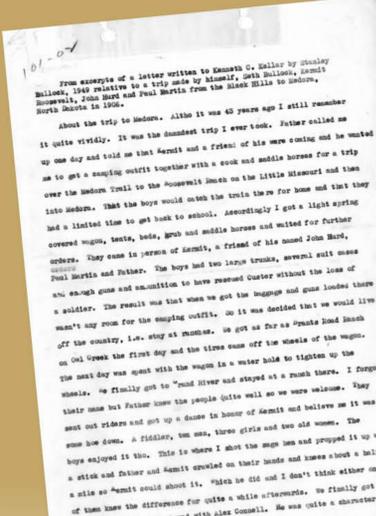
Letter from Seth Bullock to Theodore Roosevelt, dated July 14, 1903
Theodore Roosevelt Center, Dickinson State University



Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Seth Bullock, dated July 7, 1903
Theodore Roosevelt Center, Dickinson State University



Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Seth Bullock, dated September 12, 1903
Theodore Roosevelt Center, Dickinson State University



1949 letter to Kenneth C. Kellar (grandson of Seth Bullock) from Stanley Bullock (son of Seth Bullock) reminiscing about the 1907 trip to Medora, North Dakota
Theodore Roosevelt Center, Dickinson State University

Upon the success of the 1903 trip, Kermit Roosevelt traveled west to Bullock's ranch in 1905 and again in 1907. Stanley Bullock, son of Seth Bullock recorded his recollections of one of these trips in an oral history on file at the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University, North Dakota. Following the death of Bullock in 1919, Kermit Roosevelt shared his recollections of these trips in a chapter of his autobiography, The Happy Hunting-Grounds.

“A morning's bag of prairie chicken in South Dakota - Seth Bullock is second from left”
Kermit Roosevelt's autobiography, The Happy Hunting-Grounds

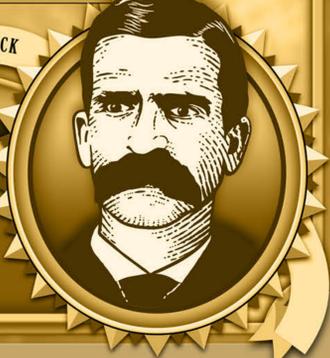




THEODORE ROOSEVELT



SETH BULLOCK



THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

No 5 of 8

“No administration has ever had a finer or more loyal service than you have given, and I do not believe this country has ever had an abler or more devoted set of public servants.”

— Theodore Roosevelt, March 1, 1909 Tennis Cabinet Speech —



Seth Bullock's Cowboy Brigade at the inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt in Washington, D.C. March 4, 1905, by photographer George Price
Minneapolis Historical Association Collection at the Journey Museum and Learning Center, Rapid City, South Dakota

Seth Bullock's Cowboys go to Washington D.C.

March 4, 1905

Theodore Roosevelt's election to a second term as President of the United States was celebrated with an Inaugural parade on March 4, 1905. As a gesture of friendship, Bullock conceived the idea of a brigade of western cowboys from South Dakota to ride their horses along the parade route on Pennsylvania Avenue. Roosevelt loved the idea. Local Black Hills newspapers published accounts of the Cowboy Brigade's train ride to Washington D.C., their meeting with the president, and an exhibition of riding skills the following day. The show concluded with the presentation of a pony and cowboy attire to Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. As part of the festivities, Bullock and the "Cowboy Brigade" posed for a candid photograph.



Ribbon from President Theodore Roosevelt's Inaugural parade on March 4, 1905
South Dakota State Historical Society

Seth Bullock and the Tennis Cabinet

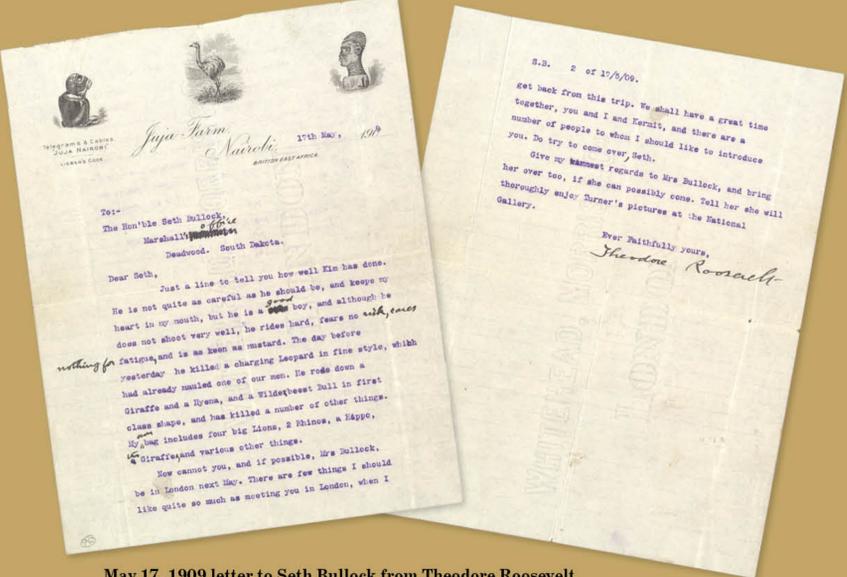
March 1, 1909

In the final days of his presidency, Roosevelt personally invited his cabinet members and close friends, including Seth Bullock, to attend a final luncheon at the White House on March 1, 1909. At the conclusion of the meal, Bullock was given the honor of presenting Roosevelt with a bronze panther sculpted by American artist Alexander P. Proctor, as a parting gift. At the conclusion of the luncheon, Roosevelt, Bullock and the "Tennis Cabinet" posed for a photograph on the White House lawn with the panther statue.

Roosevelt displayed the statue in his library at Sagamore Hill, New York. Today, visitors can view this statue as part of the National Park Service Tour of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.



Interior view of Theodore Roosevelt's library and the Alexander P. Proctor bronze panther on the bookshelf at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, New York
Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, New York



May 17, 1909 letter to Seth Bullock from Theodore Roosevelt, Juju Farm, Nairobi.
Theodore Roosevelt Center, Dickinson State University

An African Safari and a Reunion in London, England

1909-1910

“When after the close of my term, I went to Africa, on getting back to Europe I cabled Seth Bullock to bring over Mrs. Bullock and meet me in London [England], which he did; by that time I felt that I just had to meet my own people, who spoke my neighborhood dialect.”

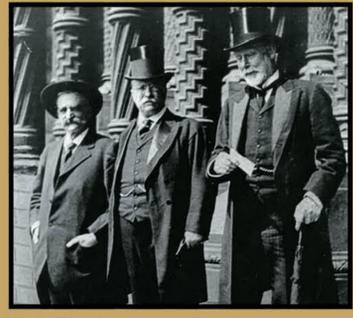
— Theodore Roosevelt, 1913 —

“I was asked while I was over there [in England] why the Colonel [Roosevelt] did not seem to care for Kings. I replied that I thought he preferred Aces.”

— Seth Bullock —

After his presidency, Roosevelt and his son Kermit embarked on a one year safari to Africa in March of 1909. While in Africa, Bullock and the Roosevelts exchanged several letters of correspondence including this May 17, 1909 letter from Juju Farm, Nairobi chronicling the safari and organizing a trip to London, England in 1910.

In several letters Roosevelt requested that Bullock come to London, England at the conclusion of the safari. Seth finally accepted Roosevelt's invitation and in May of 1910, the Bullock family traveled by ship to England. Portions of this trip and Bullock's thoughts on England are chronicled in Kermit Roosevelt's book, *The Happy Hunting-Grounds* and in Kenneth Kellar's book, *Seth Bullock: Frontier Marshal*.



Seth Bullock, Theodore Roosevelt and African hunter Sir Frederick Courteney Selous in London, England, 1910.
Ronald Grant Collection

March 1, 1909 photograph of Roosevelt's "Tennis Cabinet" on the lawn of the White House, Washington D.C. Seth Bullock is standing on the left side of President Roosevelt in center.
Library of Congress Prints & Photographs, Online Catalog



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A TRAIL TO DEADWOOD'S PAST



THEODORE ROOSEVELT

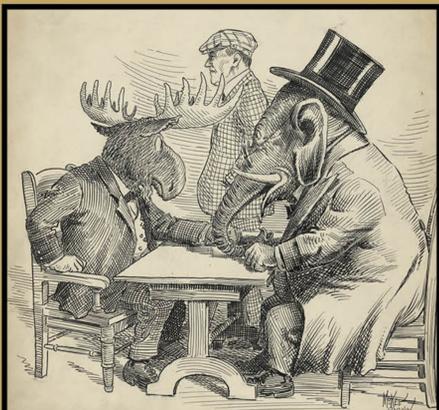
SETH BULLOCK

END OF THE TRAIL

No 6 of 8

"I must leave here to-day ..., then again I am a mollycoddle when it comes to bidding good-by; can always easier write good-by than speak it."

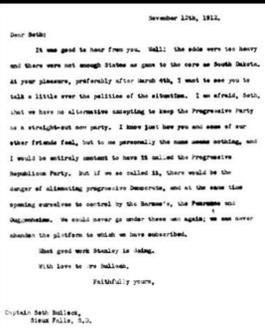
— Seth Bullock - The Happy Hunting-Grounds, Kermit Roosevelt —



1912 Political cartoon of the Bull Moose Campaign by writer and artist Barclay McKee (1870-1947).

This cartoon depicts Republican Presidential Nominee Howard Taft (Elephant) and National Progressive Party Presidential Nominee Theodore Roosevelt (Bull Moose) arguing at a table while Democratic Presidential Nominee Woodrow Wilson walks slowly past.

Library of Congress Prints & Photographs, Online Catalog

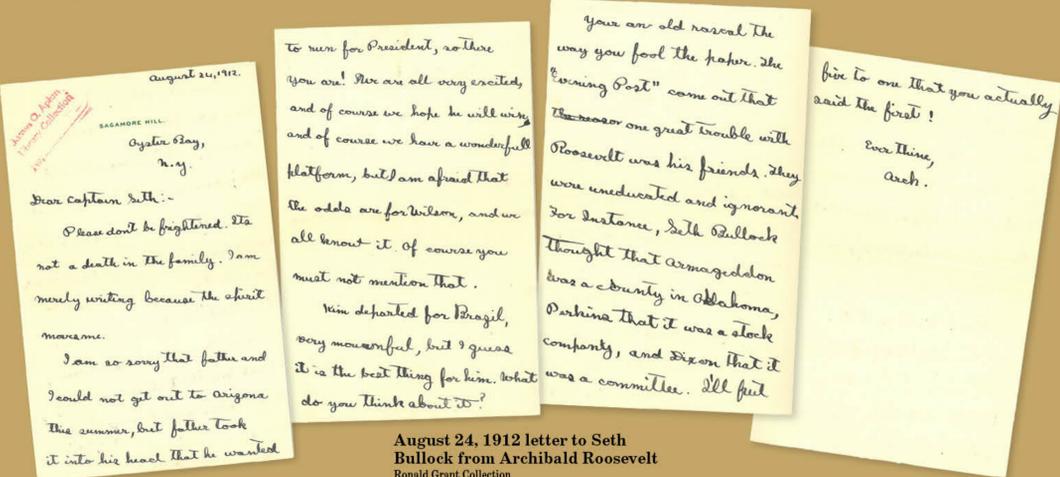


November 12, 1912 letter to Seth Bullock from Theodore Roosevelt
Theodore Roosevelt Center, Dickinson State University

Over the next nine years, until their deaths in 1919, Seth Bullock, Theodore Roosevelt and members of the Roosevelt family continued to correspond through personal letters as seen in this panel. Many of the letters provide a glimpse into how national politics, political views and the war in Europe affected the lives of Bullock and the Roosevelt families.

The Bull Moose Campaign 1912

In 1912 Roosevelt once again became involved in national politics running for a third term as President of the United States under the National Progressive Party. His decision to run for the presidency created a split in the 1912 Republican Party. On a personal level, this August 24, 1912 letter to Seth Bullock from Archibald Roosevelt provides a rare glimpse into the Roosevelt family's feelings toward their father running in the upcoming presidential election.

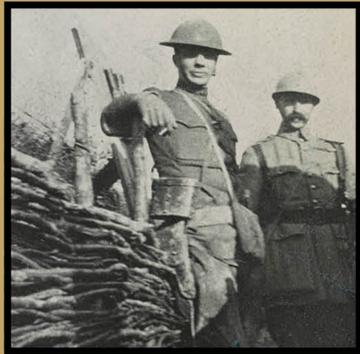


August 24, 1912 letter to Seth Bullock from Archibald Roosevelt
Ronald Grant Collection

Despite winning the majority of the Republican states, Roosevelt's National Progressive Party fell short against the Democratic Wilson Administration. This second letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Seth Bullock, dated November 12, 1912, provides an overview on the election results and Roosevelt's personal feelings surrounding his political party.

The First World War 1914 - 1918

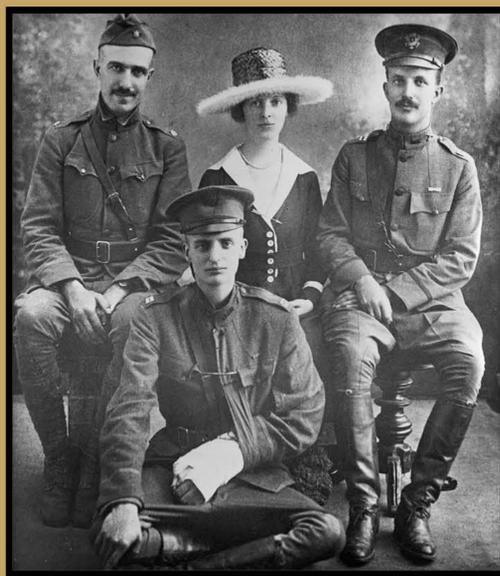
By 1915 the First World War raged in Europe and Roosevelt and Bullock were ready for the fight. Bullock in his late 60s and Roosevelt in his late 50s actively rendered their services to the Wilson Administration to help raise a volunteer cavalry and infantry regiment in South Dakota. It would be another two years before the United States entered the war causing Roosevelt and Bullock a shared sense of frustration. On June 20, 1916, in a letter to Bullock, Roosevelt stated,



Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. in training with Chasseurs Alpins, 1917
Library of Congress Prints & Photographs, Online Catalog

"Dear Seth: I don't believe this Administration can be kicked into war, for Wilson seems about as much of a milksop as Bryan, but there is, of course, the chance that he may be forced to fight."

The war, however, would provide a heavy toll on the Roosevelt family. Five of the six Roosevelt children served during the war. Archibald and Kermit Roosevelt were wounded, and their youngest son Quentin was killed in action in France. Quentin's death had a profound impact on the remainder of Roosevelt's life.



Richard Derby (left); Eleanor Butler Roosevelt (center) Kermit Roosevelt (right) and Archibald Roosevelt with bandage left hand (sitting) in World War I uniforms, 1918
Library of Congress Prints & Photographs, Online Catalog



Quentin Roosevelt posing in front of plane, 1918. On July 14, 1918 he was shot down and killed in France.
Library of Congress Prints & Photographs, Online Catalog

Death of President January 6, 1919

On January 6, 1919, Theodore Roosevelt died at his home in Sagamore Hill, New York. As word of Roosevelt's passing disseminated across the nation, in South Dakota, Roosevelt's death came as a severe blow to Bullock. In the ensuing month as the nation bereaved the loss of a great leader, a grief stricken Bullock began a campaign to venerate the memory of his longtime friend.

January 7, 1919 Headlines from the Deadwood Daily Pioneer-Times newspaper on the death of Theodore Roosevelt
Centennial Archives, Deadwood Public Library



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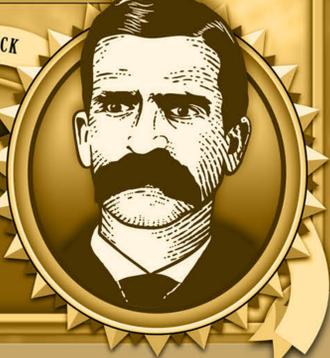
A TRAIL TO DEADWOOD'S PAST



THEODORE ROOSEVELT



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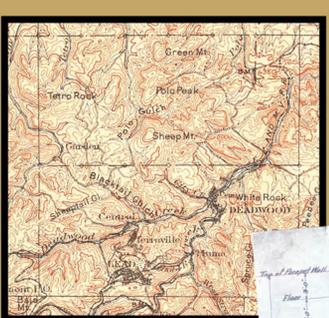


HONORING A FRIENDSHIP

No 7 of 8

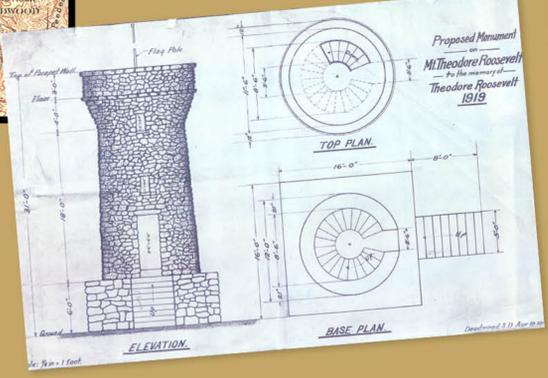
“RESOLVED by the Society of Black Hills Pioneers that in perpetuation of [Roosevelt’s] memory and to keep it ever before our people, and those of succeeding generations, the name of the mountain west of Deadwood at the head of Polo and City creeks now known as Sheep Mountain be changed to Mount Theodore Roosevelt.”

– Proclamation to the Society of Black Hills Pioneers –
Seth Bullock, February 1, 1919



Portion of 1901 topographic map showing Sheep Mountain, before the renaming to Mount Theodore Roosevelt
USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer

On February 1, 1919, during the annual meeting of the Society of Black Hills Pioneers, Bullock presented a proclamation to the assembly. His goal was to rename Sheep Mountain, located three miles west of the Deadwood city limits, to Mount Theodore Roosevelt. In addition, he wanted the Black Hills Pioneers to develop a suitable memorial on the mountain in honor of the late president. The assembly approved Bullock’s proclamation and he immediately went to work.



Architectural plan of the monument on Mt. Theodore Roosevelt, April 19, 1919 by H.S. Vincent and C.E. Dawson
United States Forest Service, Northern Ranger District, Spearfish, South Dakota

By April plans for the construction of a tower using native Black Hills stone were approved and the Hanson Brothers from Deadwood received the contract to erect the monument. The local newspapers provided updates on the progress of the project, including the completion date scheduled for July 1, 1919.

May 17, 1919 Daily Deadwood Pioneer-Times article on the construction of the monument.
Centennial Archives, Deadwood Public Library

WORK ON MONUMENT STARTED.
Hanson Brothers yesterday morning sent several team loads of materials to the summit of Mount Roosevelt and will begin work this morning on the monument. The trips to the summit of the mount by team, even with heavy loads which were hauled, was not a difficult one, and is evidence that the proposed road to the top of the mount will be one of easy grades and negotiable by any kind of a vehicle. The contractors will not lose any time on the job, and from now on will keep working on it every good day until it shall have been completed. As stated, the material for building the tower is already on the ground, right at the hand of the builders, and the greater part of it broken into convenient sizes, so there can be no delay in the work. While the work is progressing on the tower the city will be working on the Denver avenue road, and the county will be repairing that stretch of the road which comes within its jurisdiction, and the little stretch that will have to be completed to give easy access to the summit will be taken care of in simple time by the executive committee on Home-Coming week, which is looking after the general details of the celebration. The fact that the contractor have been able to haul heavy loads to the summit of the mount without any preparation in the way of road fixing, demonstrates that the way to the top of the elevation is a comparatively easy one.

Dedication of a Mountain

July 4, 1919

“The significance of the events which we commemorate here this afternoon reaches far beyond the environment of this little community with which this idea has originated. They reach indeed beyond the boundaries of this beloved state and beyond the boundaries of a nation, they reach wherever human liberty is beloved and wherever noble character and manhood is remembered and respected.”

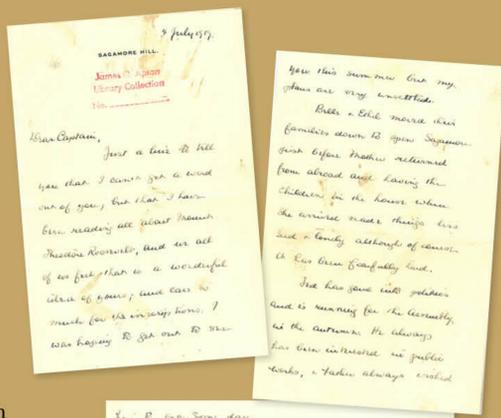
– Eben B. Martin, Dedication of Mount Roosevelt, July 4, 1919 –

Despite an overcast day with intermittent rain, a parade of over 200 automobiles and countless people converged on Mount Theodore Roosevelt in the afternoon for the dedication ceremony. Motion picture crews and newspaper reporters recorded the speeches delivered by U.S. Major General Leonard Wood, South Dakota Congressman Eben B. Martin, and South Dakota Governor Peter Norbeck. Bullock, for the majority of the dedication sat back and enjoyed the festivities.



July 4, 1919 photograph of Captain Seth Bullock beside the Theodore Roosevelt tower. This would be one of the last images of Bullock before his death in September.
South Dakota State Historical Society

Afterwards, numerous photographs were taken of Bullock, Wood and the other dignitaries. Though the Roosevelt family did not attend the dedication, Kermit Roosevelt sent a heartfelt letter dated July 4, 1919 thanking Bullock for contributing to the memory of his late father.



July 4, 1919 letter to Seth Bullock from Kermit Roosevelt
Ronald Grant Collection

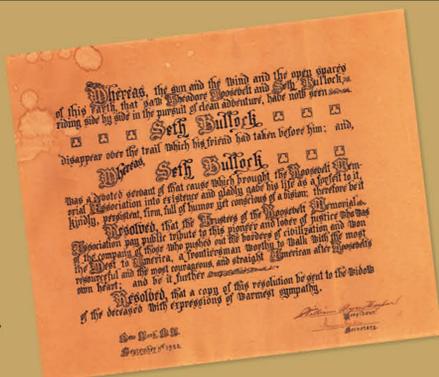
Death of a Good Man

September 23, 1919

“Well may we all feel proud of having been numbered among the friends of such a thoroughgoing, upstanding American as Seth Bullock.”

– The Happy Hunting-Grounds, Kermit Roosevelt –

Two months after the dedication, Captain Seth Bullock died in his home in Deadwood, South Dakota on September 23, 1919. Bullock’s obituary was covered in the local and national newspapers across the county including the Chicago Daily Tribune. Many people including Kermit Roosevelt sent condolences to the Bullock family. The Trustees of the Roosevelt Memorial Association presented the Bullock family with a proclamation honoring the friendship between Bullock and Roosevelt. Kermit Roosevelt added a chapter in his book, *The Happy Hunting-Grounds*, published in 1920 reminiscing about Bullock and their time spent together in the ranch country of western South Dakota.



Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association Proclamation
City of Deadwood Archives

Seth Bullock’s obituary published in the Chicago Daily Tribune, September 24, 1919
Newberry Library, Chicago. A 6 169



CROSSES GREAT DIVIDE
Sheriff and Marshal, Long Friend of Roosevelt, Dies in the Northwest.

DEADWOOD, S. D., Sept. 23.—Seth Bullock, lifelong personal friend of the late Theodore Roosevelt, died at his home here this morning after an illness of several weeks. He was a pioneer of the Black Hills and was 62 years old. Bullock was a figure of the "old west." In appearance and in action he was typical of the sheriff of the plains, featured in the novels of the great novelist. Bullock was a silent, steel cold man. He seemed at times to have just the power of speech. He was referred to once by an easterner as a "man killer" and when this was brought to his attention he broke almost into a smile. "They say I've killed forty-seven men. Now, I'll tell you what. I never killed but two, and I did not kill them soon enough." Bullock's friendship with Theodore Roosevelt dated back to the time that Mr. Roosevelt first appeared on the northwest plains as a landowner and it continued up to the time of the former president's death. They hunted together and worked together and Bullock was a frequent visitor to the White House while Mr. Roosevelt was in office. In the 1898 campaign Bullock accompanied Mr. Roosevelt on a northwest speaking tour. It was reported the opposition intended to break up the Deadwood meeting. "Don't you worry," said Seth. But before the meeting he passed around a rifle on the platform with Roosevelt together with all of the people, but he said that he would kill any person who made a disturbance. "There was no disturbance." Years ago Bullock was sheriff in South Dakota. Deadwood was a rough town. The first night he was sheriff he personally arrested thirty-seven men—carefully beating each into insensibility with the butt end of his gun before he made the arrest. Three escaped and "held up" in a desert.

July 4, 1919 dedication of Mount Theodore Roosevelt
Adams Museum Collection, Deadwood History, Inc.



HistoryLink

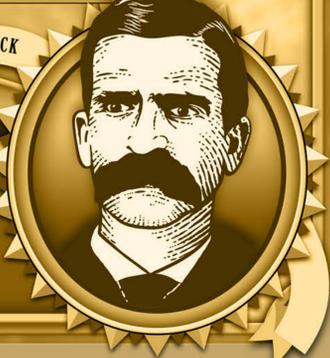
A TRAIL TO DEADWOOD'S PAST



THEODORE ROOSEVELT



SETH BULLOCK



MT. ROOSEVELT 100TH ANNIVERSARY

No 8 of 8

“In the years ahead, Mt. Roosevelt will become one of the scenic attractions to the many thousands of tourists who visit the northern Black Hills each summer.”

— S.C. Clark, Secretary, Society of Black Hills Pioneers, June 18, 1968 —

Mt. Roosevelt: A Shrine of Democracy 1919 – 1968

Throughout the 20th century, Mount Theodore Roosevelt and the Roosevelt Tower grew in popularity as a local and regional tourist attraction. The tower was included in numerous Black Hills tourist attraction booklets and pamphlets produced by the Deadwood Chamber of Commerce. The tower was also included in events such as the annual Days of 76 Celebration in Deadwood, South Dakota.

Over the next fifty years, the Society of Black Hills Pioneers was the legal steward for the monument. During their annual meetings, a special subcommittee provided updates on the maintenance of the tower and surrounding grounds. By the mid-1960s, the Society decided to transfer the tower and grounds to the United States Forest Service. This decision was due to an older membership and the limited financial resources needed to maintain the property. Several Society members, including Seth Bullock's grandson and lifelong Society member Kenneth Kellar, helped facilitate the land transfer and began planning the re-dedication ceremony on July 4, 1968.



Mount Theodore Roosevelt tower float at the 1924 Days of 76 parade, Deadwood, South Dakota
City of Deadwood Archives



Excerpt from the 1943 Deadwood Chamber of Commerce brochure
City of Deadwood Archives

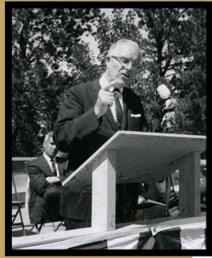
The Re-Dedication of a Mountain July 4, 1968

The official transfer of the tower to the United States Forest Service was scheduled for July 4, 1968. This date also commemorated the 50th anniversary of the tower dedication. Prior to the event, local newspapers provided updates and a list of speakers including Mrs. Ethel Derby, the granddaughter of Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. Representative E.Y. Berry, Regional USFS Supervisor David S. Norwall from Denver, Colorado, and former South Dakota Governor Archie Gubbrud.



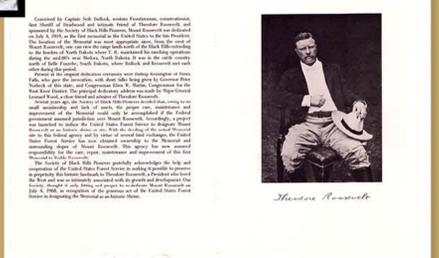
Kenneth Kellar, representing the Society of Black Hills Pioneers and the Bullock family, was given the honor of Master of Ceremonies for the event. The re-dedication program provided a tribute to Theodore Roosevelt's and Seth Bullock's friendship and a description of the transfer of the tower.

Mrs. Ethel Derby (granddaughter of Theodore Roosevelt), and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kellar, July 4, 1968
City of Deadwood Archives



U.S. Representative E.Y. Berry at the re-dedication ceremony, July 4, 1968
City of Deadwood Archives

Re-dedication Ceremony Program Mount Roosevelt, July 4, 1968
City of Deadwood Archives



Restoration of Mount Theodore Roosevelt Tower 2005 to 2012

At the beginning of the 21st century, the US Forest Service in conjunction with several local Black Hills agencies began a multiple phased restoration of the Roosevelt Tower. In 2005 the US Forest Service received an "Outside of Deadwood" grant through the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission. Officials from the Deadwood HPC office also aided in the successful nomination of the tower to the National Register for Historic Places based on its unique architectural design and the tower's association with former US President Theodore Roosevelt. In gratitude the USFS presented Deadwood with a plaque, as seen in this exhibit.



Representatives from the US Forest Service presenting the Deadwood Historic Preservation Officer and city officials with the award plaque in front of the Roosevelt Tower.
USFS Northern Hills Ranger District

USFS Award to the City of Deadwood for professional and financial support of the 2005 Roosevelt Tower restoration
City of Deadwood Archives



Progress photographs recording work on the stairs and base, interior rock staircase, and frame for the metal canopy.
USFS Northern Hills Ranger District

Five years later in 2010, the US Forest Service received \$120,000 as part of the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the rehabilitation of the tower. This funding helped reinforce the base of the monument, install stair and metal railing on the monument, reinforced the original interior rock staircase, and re-mortar the sides of the tower. The most noticeable addition to the tower was the installation of a metal canopy over the top of the parapet. The canopy helps shed moisture from seeping inside the tower. In 2012 the tower restoration was completed and a fifteen minute interpretive video was developed by the US Forest Service describing the project. (Please scan the QR code attached to this panel for a link to the video.)



100th Anniversary of Roosevelt Tower

In 2019, as part of the 100th anniversary of the Roosevelt Tower, the United States Forest Service, Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission, City of Deadwood, and Deadwood Masonic Lodge #07 rededicated the tower. New outdoor interpretive panels funded by the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission were installed along the half mile trail leading to the tower.

Today, Roosevelt Tower is a silent reminder of the friendship between two prominent men who helped shape this nation and western South Dakota. The view from the tower allows one to reflect upon the western expansion of the American Frontier and those individuals who helped shape this great nation.

Sunrise over Mount Theodore Roosevelt, by Jon Larsen
https://flickr-larsen.pixels.com/

