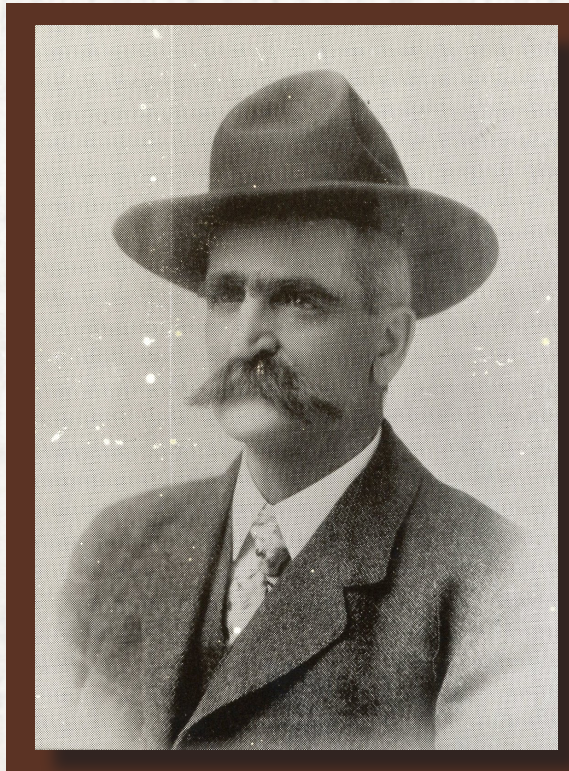


Roosevelt's death in January 1919 was a blow to his old friend. Bullock enlisted the help of the Society of Black Hills Pioneers to erect a monument to Theodore Roosevelt on Sheep Mountain, later renamed Mt. Roosevelt. It was the first monument to the president erected in the country, dedicated July 4, 1919. Bullock died just a few months later in September at the age of 70. His burial plot resides on a small plateau above Mt. Moriah Cemetery, with a view of Roosevelt's monument across the gulch.



The Friendship Tower, located on Mt. Roosevelt, was built to commemorate the friendship between Seth Bullock and Theodore Roosevelt.



Photograph of Seth Bullock circa 1890-1900.

Visit the grave of  
Seth Bullock at  
Mt. Moriah Cemetery  
in Deadwood, SD



City of Deadwood  
Historic Preservation Office  
108 Sherman Street  
Deadwood, SD 57732  
Tel.: (605) 578-2082  
[www.cityofdeadwood.com](http://www.cityofdeadwood.com)



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# DEADWOOD

## Seth Bullock



## BLACK HILLS LAWMAN

July 23, 1849 - September 23, 1919



# HistoryLink

## A TRAIL TO DEADWOOD'S PAST

DEADWOOD  
SOUTH  
DAKOTA  
A National Historic  
Landmark

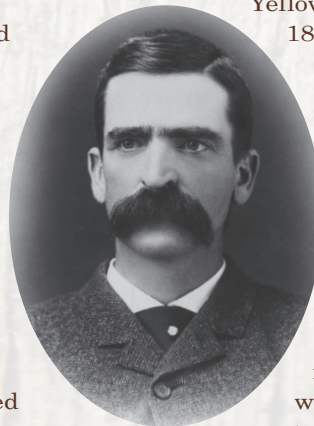


Seth Bullock and Sol Star posing on the Redwater Bridge circa 1880s.

## 1849 - Seth Bullock - 1919

The quintessential pioneer and settler of the American frontier has to be Seth Bullock who, ironically, was born in Canada. In stark contrast to the gunslingers, outlaws, and desperados that peppered the history of the American West, Seth Bullock was a strong and steady force, bringing order to a lawless region and setting the foundation stones for the community that endures today.

Born near Windsor, Ontario in 1849, Bullock took Horace Greeley's advice and at a young age headed West to seek his fortune. He distinguished himself in Helena, Montana where he was elected to the Territorial Senate of the State of Montana at an age just barely old enough to vote. There, after an exploratory trip into Yellowstone on horseback, he introduced a resolution to



preserve that magnificent land, protecting it from settlement. His resolution was adopted and Yellowstone Park was established March 1, 1872.

He married Martha Eccles (b. 1851) in Salt Lake City in 1874. Just a few years later in 1876, he and his partner Sol Star could not resist the temptation to relocate their hardware business to the booming gold rush community of Deadwood, Dakota Territory. After shipping his bride and infant daughter back to her family home in Michigan for safekeeping, Bullock and Star loaded wagons with Dutch ovens, fry pans, chamber pots, dynamite, axes, rope, picks and shovels and headed for Deadwood. They arrived on August 1, 1876, and lowered their cargo down the sandstone cliffs of the steep gulch by ropes.

The Bullocks were founders of the Round Table Club, the oldest surviving cultural club in the region. With a thriving hardware business and a law-abiding Deadwood, Bullock diversified his interests into ranching near present day Belle Fourche, South Dakota.

While on the range near his ranch in 1884, Bullock encountered three horsemen who looked ragged and trail weary. Bullock, who by this time was a Deputy US Marshal, felt the need to interrogate the three. One of the men was Theodore Roosevelt, then a Deputy Sheriff from Medora who had apprehended a horse thief, Crazy Steve. Bullock and Roosevelt, two men cut from the same cloth, became instant friends. In subsequent years, Roosevelt sent his sons to summer with Bullock, to have the benefit of the influence of the great man, and have the Western experience that Roosevelt held in such high regard.

In the Spanish American War, Bullock volunteered as one of Teddy's Rough Riders and was named Captain of Troop A in Grigsby's cowboy regiment. From that time forward, Seth Bullock was known as "Captain". He organized a group of cowboys from South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Nebraska to attend Roosevelt's presidential inauguration in 1905. The men shipped themselves and their horses to Washington, where they rode down the street in the inaugural parade, roping the occasional pedestrian along the way. TR greeted them from the north portico of the White House, shaking each cowboy's hand as they rode by.

Bullock arrived in town the day before Wild Bill Hickok was murdered. The killing triggered a demand for law and order in the turbulent town and Bullock was made Deadwood's first Sheriff. According to his grandson Ken Kellar, one of his first acts as Sheriff was to confront Wyatt Earp who had come to town, perhaps with the idea of securing the job for himself. Bullock told him that the job was filled, his services were not required, and he should leave town. Earp obliged.

With strength of character and creativity, more than force, Bullock tamed the wild town and was a contributing force to the permanent settlement of the area. In November of 1877, a group of miners seized Keets Mine outside of Deadwood in a dispute over wages. The situation was tense and a shootout seemed inevitable. At the request of Bullock, the Federal Cavalry stood ready to intervene. But Bullock devised a clever plan. He bought a quantity of sulphur in Deadwood's Chinatown. He then lowered a load of burning sulphur down into the mine with almost immediate results. The gasping miners emerged and meekly surrendered without a shot being fired. With Deadwood becoming a law and order town, Seth sent for Martha. She became a pillar of the city, bringing stability and culture to the community.