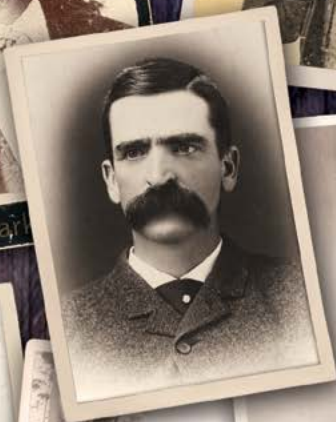


DEADWOOD'S Notables



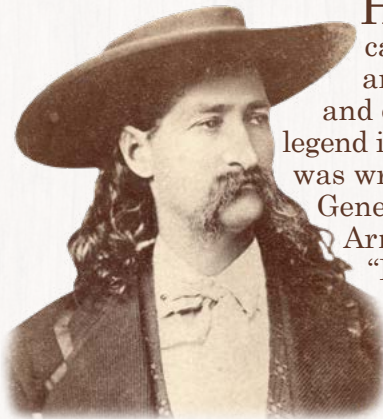
1876
DEADWOOD
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HistoryLink

A TRAIL TO DEADWOOD'S PAST



James Butler Hickok ☛ May 27, 1837 – August 2, 1876



His contemporaries called him Wild Bill, and the newspaper and others made him a legend in his own time. He was written about by General George Armstrong Custer and “Buffalo Bill” Cody. But what are the facts behind the legend? James Butler Hickok was

born in 1837 in Troy Grove, Illinois and spent his formative years helping out on the family farm. Most of his adult years were spent in the West, where his exploits included employment as a detective, scout for the US Army, and as the Marshal of Abilene, Kansas.

Part of the Hickok legend was built on his ability to handle a pistol with either hand, becoming one of the first so-called “fast guns.” He carried his pistols in his belt, in an unusual “butts-forward” position. Although his contemporaries were mixed in their opinion of his marksmanship, everyone agreed that when he shot at a man, Hickok was in a class by himself. Adding to his greatness was his ability to stay calm while taking very deliberate and careful aim.

Five months before his death, he married Agnes Thatcher in Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory. Although this was his only documented marriage, evidence indicates that he was a ladies’ man.

Hickok stood over 6 feet tall, had shoulder length light brown hair and gray eyes. Libbie Custer describes him in her 1890 book,

Following the Guidon,

“Physically he was a delight to look upon. Tall, lithe, and free in every motion, he rode and walked as if every muscle was perfection, and the careless swing of his body as he moved seemed perfectly in keeping with the man, the country, the time in which he lived. I do not recall anything finer in the way of physical perfection than Wild Bill when he swung himself lightly from his saddle, and with graceful, swaying step, squarely set shoulders and well poised head...”

Wild Bill was murdered in Deadwood on August 2, 1876. Wild Bill’s friends buried him in Deadwood’s first cemetery, but three years later he was reburied at the present site in Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

Hickok’s life of adventure ended on August 2, 1876, during a card game in Deadwood’s No. 10 Saloon. He was shot from behind by Jack McCall, who was later hanged for the crime. Although allegedly holding black aces and eights, and a nine of diamonds - forever known as The Dead Man’s Hand - the actual composition of Wild Bill’s final hand of cards remains an unresolved mystery.



Martha “Calamity Jane” Canary ● May 1, 1856 – August 1, 1903

Controversy and speculation have clouded the life and times of western legend “Calamity Jane”. Stories told about her range from the verifiable to far-fetched fabrications. The truth of this Deadwood legend may never be known, but many historians agree upon some facts.



The future “Calamity Jane” was born Martha Canary in 1856 near Princeton, Missouri to Robert Willson Canary and Charlotte M. Burge. Martha was the oldest of six children born to Robert and Charlotte. Little is known about Martha’s childhood other than the family’s relocation from Mercer County, Missouri to Virginia City, Montana Territory in 1865. Within two years of this move, Martha and her siblings were left orphans with the passing of her mother in 1866 and father in 1867.

Parentless in a wild frontier, Martha Canary relocated to the Wyoming Territory where she worked as a dance-hall girl, waitress, laundress, and prostitute at the railroad camps and military posts along the Union Pacific Railroad. By wearing men’s clothing, Martha would disguise her gender. This choice in dress would eventually define her persona later in life.

Martha also acquired her nickname “Calamity Jane” during this time. The how and why the name was given remain elusive; however, one account stated Captain James Egan proclaimed at Goose Creek, Wyoming, “I name you Calamity Jane, heroine of the Plains!”

Martha Canary would gain regional and national notoriety through the newspaper articles, dime store novels, books, and even an autobiography. Through these exaggerated publications, Calamity Jane was portrayed as an expert scout, bullwhacker, teamster, crack shot and western heroine. The reality though was she had many unfortunate faults. Alcoholism is a possible explanation for Calamity Jane’s fanciful yarns and numerous love affairs including one with western gunfighter James Butler Hickok.

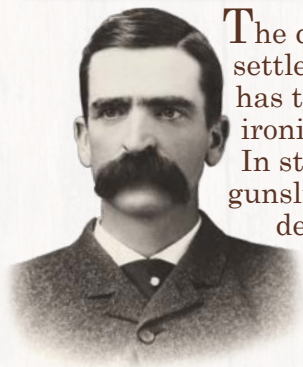
When not on the open road, Calamity Jane could be found at the local saloons drinking, chewing tobacco, and being the boisterous life of the party. Calamity Jane also had a good-hearted and caring side not often seen by the general public. When the small pox epidemic hit the Black Hills and Deadwood, she helped people with the illness without concern for her own well-being.

Calamity Jane’s life of adventure ended at age 47. Weary and ailing, Martha boarded a train headed for Terry, South Dakota. Upon arrival, she rented a room at the Calloway Hotel and died on August 1, 1903.

Aged beyond her years, she died of a combination of inflammation of the bowels and pneumonia. She was buried in Mt. Moriah Cemetery beside Wild Bill Hickok, reportedly her dying wish.



Seth Bullock ● July 23, 1849 – September 23, 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, Canada in 1847, Bullock took Horace Greeley's advice and at a young age headed west to seek his fortune. In 1871 he distinguished himself in Helena, Montana where he was nominated to the Montana territorial council. While in office, Bullock introduced a motion to Congress for adding Yellowstone to the State of Montana and supported moving the Montana state capital to Helena. More importantly, Bullock met and befriended his future business partner, Sol Star while serving in the legislature. After three years of service, Bullock in 1873 was elected and served one term as sheriff of Lewis and Clark County, Montana and married Martha Eccles (b. 1851) in Salt Lake City in 1874.

In 1876 Bullock and his partner Sol Star could not resist the temptation to relocate and open a hardware and auction house in the booming gold rush community of Deadwood, Dakota Territory. After shipping his wife and infant daughter back to her family home in Michigan, Bullock and Star loaded wagons with Dutch ovens, fry pans, chamber pots, dynamite, axes, rope, picks and shovels and headed for Deadwood. They arrived in August 1876 and purchased a corner lot on the junction of Wall and Main Streets (present day Bullock Hotel).

Within the year Territorial Governor John L. Pennington appointed Bullock as

sheriff of Lawrence County. With strength of character and creativity, more than force, Bullock tamed the mining camps and was a contributing force to the permanent settlement of the county. 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. The Bullocks were founders of the Round Table Club, the oldest surviving cultural club in the Black Hills. With a thriving hardware business and a law-abiding Deadwood, Bullock and Star diversified their interests into ranching near present day Belle Fourche, South Dakota.

In 1892 US Civil Service Commissioner and future US President Theodore Roosevelt came to western South Dakota to observe conditions on Indian Reservations. Somewhere along the Red Water River Valley, near today's Belle Fourche, South Dakota, Roosevelt crossed paths with Bullock before heading to Deadwood, South Dakota and the reservations. Roosevelt's recollection of this chance meeting appear in his 1910 autobiography.

"We had a rather rough trip, ... 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!'"

Seven years later Bullock and Roosevelt's path would cross again after both men served during Spanish-American War. In 1900 after accepting the vice-presidential nomination during the Republican National Convention in Pennsylvania, Roosevelt campaigned in twenty-four states including North and South Dakota and Montana. Bullock, a prominent Republican, Spanish-American War veteran, and former lawman was invited to accompany Roosevelt during the South Dakota leg of

Seth Bullock continued

his campaign tour. At the conclusion of this trip, both men forged a strong friendship that remained for the rest of their lives.

Following the assassination of William McKinley in 1901, Roosevelt became the 26th President of the United States. In a congratulatory letter dated September 24, 1901, Roosevelt appointed Bullock as the forest supervisor for the Black Hills Forest Reserve. Bullock held this federal appointment for four and half years. During Roosevelt's candidacy, Bullock became one of Roosevelt's staunchest and valued friends. In the summers of 1903, 1905, 1907 and 1909, Roosevelt's children, Theodore Jr., Kermit and Archibald visited and spent time with Bullock in the ranch country of western South Dakota. In 1905, as a gesture of friendship, Bullock conceived the idea of a brigade of western cowboys from South Dakota to ride horses at Roosevelt's inaugural parade. Local and national newspapers published accounts of Bullock's Cowboy Brigade's to Washington D.C. and their meeting with the president.

Upon conclusion of his second term in office, Roosevelt embarked on a one year safari to Africa. In several letters, Roosevelt invited Bullock and his family to London, England following the safari. The Bullock family accepted the invitation and arrived in England in June of 1910. 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. 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 family.



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

Mount Roosevelt Tower Dedicated July 4, 1919

On January 6, 1919, former US President Theodore Roosevelt died at his home in Sagamore Hill, New York. As word of Roosevelt's passing disseminated across the nation, his death came as a severe blow to longtime friend,



Bullock and Roosevelt, circa 1910.

Seth Bullock. 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. During the annual meeting of the Society of Black Hills Pioneers, Bullock proposed to rename Sheep Mountain, located three miles west of the Deadwood city limits, to Mount Theodore Roosevelt. In addition, Bullock wanted the Black Hills Pioneers to develop a suitable memorial on the mountain in honor of Roosevelt. In April of 1919, plans for the construction of a tower using native Black Hills stone were approved by the Society of Black Hills Pioneers. The public dedication was scheduled for July 4, 1919.

Despite an overcast day with intermittent rain, automobiles and countless people converged on Mount Theodore Roosevelt for the dedication ceremony. 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. Two months after the dedication, Captain Seth Bullock died in his home in Deadwood, South Dakota on September 23, 1919.

Throughout the 20th century, Mount Theodore Roosevelt and the Roosevelt Tower grew in popularity as a local and regional tourist attraction. By the mid-1960s, the Society of Black Hills Pioneers decided to transfer

Mount Roosevelt continued

ownership of the tower and grounds to the United States Forest Service (USFS). Society members, including Seth Bullock's grandson Kenneth Kellar, helped facilitate the transfer and began planning the rededication ceremony on July 4, 1968.

"Seth Bullock was a hero-worshipper and [Roosevelt] was his great hero."

The Happy Hunting Grounds, Kermit Roosevelt

In 2005, the USFS and several local Black Hills agencies began restoring the Roosevelt Tower. The Deadwood Historic Preservation Office awarded a grant to the USFS and aided in the successful nomination of the tower to the National Register for Historic Places. 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. In 2019, as part of the 100th anniversary of the Roosevelt Tower, the USFS, Deadwood HPC, City of Deadwood, and Deadwood Masonic Lodge #07 rededicated the tower. Today, Roosevelt Tower is a silent reminder of the friendship between two prominent men who helped shaped this nation and western South Dakota.



John Perrett

February 9, 1866 – February 26, 1943

John Eli Perrett, better known as "Potato Creek Johnny", was to become one of Deadwood's most beloved characters. Standing only 4'3" tall, Johnny became the living personification of Deadwood's early prospectors. He was born on February 9, 1866 in Abergavenny, Wales, Great Britain. In 1883 Perrett immigrated to the United States and worked an assortment of odd jobs before staking a mining claim along Potato Creek near the mining town of Tinton in 1891. Over the next 38 years, Perrett prospected along Potato Creek, hoping to strike it rich. Perseverance eventually won out on May 29, 1929 when he found one of the largest gold nuggets in the Black Hills. Weighing in at 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ troy ounces and measuring five inches in length, Perrett's nugget loosely resembled a dance hall girl's leg. As a result of this discovery, Perrett became a local celebrity at 66 years of age.

For the remainder of his life, Perrett worked for the Deadwood Chamber of Commerce promoting Deadwood and its history to the countless tourists. Dressed in buckskins and sporting long, uncut hair and beard, Perrett personified the life of an early Deadwood prospector. He became a permanent fixture during the annual Days of '76 celebration and parade, the Trial of Jack McCall and as a street re-enactor along Deadwood's Main Street.

In November of 1941 at age 75, Perrett was flown to New York City and appeared on "We the People," a national radio program sponsored by Sanka Coffee. Two years after his national radio debut, Perrett died on February 27, 1943 and was laid to rest beside western legends Martha "Calamity Jane" Canary and James "Wild Bill" Hickok in Mount Moriah Cemetery.



Potato Creek Johnny's gold nugget on display at the Adams Museum.

Preacher Smith ● February 9, 1866 – February 26, 1943

Henry Weston Smith, better known as “Preacher Smith,” was the first Christian minister to arrive during the Black Hills gold rush. Born on January 10, 1828 in Ellington, Connecticut, Smith was one of five siblings. In 1852 at the age of 24, Smith received his calling to become a Christian minister, was ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church and served in the Providence, Rhode Island Methodist Conference for ten years. During this time he ministered to congregations in Worchester and Holyoke, Massachusetts and Tolland and Summers, Connecticut. Smith, at the age of 34, enlisted with the 52nd Massachusetts Infantry and served nine months during the American Civil War before being honorably discharged in 1862. Following the war Smith studied homeopathic medicine and relocated his family to Kentucky where he continued to preach and minister to a parish in Louisville.

In 1876 and acting on his own accord, Smith left his family in Kentucky, traveled Cheyenne and onto the Black Hills to minister in the mining camps. Longtime Deadwood resident and businessman George Vincent Ayres chronicled Smith’s first service in the Black Hills on May 7, 1876 in his personal diary.

“Rev. Smith held the first church services in the Hills. Congregation composed of thirty men and five women. The congregation paid strict attention to the sermon except when there was a dog fight outside.”

George V. Ayres

By June of 1876, Smith was working and preaching in the Deadwood Gulch mining camps. During the work week Smith toiled as a manual laborer; however, on Sundays he would preach outside along Main Street in front of E.C. Bent and Julius Deetken’s drugstore. On Sunday, August 20, 1876 Smith was murdered by unknown assailants while in route to the mining camp of Crook City. Smith’s body was retrieved and interred

in Deadwood’s first cemetery. Seven years later his remains were exhumed and reinterred in Mount Moriah Cemetery.

In 1914 a roadside monument honoring Smith was erected by the Society of Black Hills Pioneers along today’s US Highway 85. Today visitors can stop and reflect upon Smith’s life and piety.



Mount Moriah Cemetery Established 1878

In 1878, the newly formed Lawrence County purchased a tract of land for the development of a cemetery. Located on a mountainous plateau overlooking Deadwood Gulch, this land was to become Mount Moriah Cemetery. In accordance with Victorian customs of the day, the cemetery was laid out in an oval configuration and divided into four sections surrounded by two potter’s fields on the north and south sides. For fourteen years, Lawrence County oversaw the operation and maintenance of Mount Moriah. During this time, many of the remains from Deadwood’s first cemetery were exhumed and reburied in Mount Moriah including western gun fighter James Butler Hickok and Methodist Minister Henry Weston Smith.

By the 1890s, Deadwood citizens concerned by the lack of maintenance in the cemetery formed the Deadwood Cemetery Association. In 1892, Lawrence County deeded the cemetery to the Cemetery Association. For the next forty-six years, the association regulated burials and oversaw numerous improvements to the cemetery. By the 1930s, many of the plots in the cemetery were either

Mount Moriah continued

filled or purchased resulting in a limited amount of revenue being generated for the perpetual care. This led to the Cemetery Association deeding Mount Moriah to the City of Deadwood in 1938.

As the new stewards of the cemetery, the City of Deadwood with the help of the Chamber of Commerce began to promote Mount Moriah Cemetery as a tourist attraction. One of the more noticeable improvements included the construction of two adjoining retaining walls for the graves of Wild Bill and Calamity Jane.

"The climate in the Black Hills is so damn healthy that you would have to kill a man to start a cemetery".
George V. Ayres, Deadwood businessman and longtime resident

In 1949, Mount Moriah Cemetery was officially closed to burials. Oak Ridge Cemetery replaced Mount Moriah as Deadwood's municipal cemetery. As Mount Moriah continued to grow in popularity, the City of Deadwood hired a landscape architect in 1967 to develop a master plan for the cemetery. Recommendations included eliminating vehicular traffic, developing pedestrian transportation, suitable interpretation, and general improvements to the cemetery.

Lack of funding however, prolonged the improvements to the cemetery. As a way to procure revenue for cemetery restoration, the City of Deadwood began charging an entrance fee in the mid-1980s. Ten years would elapse before Mount Moriah would undergo a \$4.8 million dollar restoration funded by the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission. Using funds generated through limited gaming, the five year restoration project restored broken monuments, repaired retaining walls, paved the streets, and improved the drainage in the cemetery. The crowning achievement of the restoration was

the creation and installation of a bronze marker in the likeness of the 1890 Wild Bill Hickok memorial dedicated on August 2, 2002.

Today, Mount Moriah Cemetery provides visitors with an opportunity to learn about Deadwood's colorful past through a visitor center adjacent to the cemetery and self-guided walking tour. The paved roads provide an excellent opportunity for walkers and hikers to explore the site. Please set aside a minimum of one half-hour to view the celebrity graves. Once at the celebrity graves, add an additional 15 minutes to walk to the historic overlook of downtown Deadwood.

Please remember, Mount Moriah Cemetery is sacred ground and should be treated with respect. Please take only photographs and leave nothing but memories.



Mary Emma Miller Plot North Potters Field.

Check out these other Deadwood Historic Attractions

1. Deadwood Trolley
2. Welcome Center
3. History & Information Center
4. Days of '76 Museum
5. Historic Adams House
6. Adams Museum
7. Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center
8. Model Train Museum
9. Broken Boot Gold Mine
10. Saint Ambrose Catholic Cemetery
11. Deadwood Alive
12. City of Deadwood Archive and Archaeological Lab

For more information

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