

Bullock Hotel:



History:

Seth Bullock was born on July 23, 1849 in Canada (Amherst or Etobicoke) to George Bullock (a retired British Major) and Agnes Findley (Originally from Scotland)

When Seth was 16 he ran away from home and moved in with his sister in Montana. The legend is that was forced to move back home by his sister. He moved to Helena Montana in 1867 when he was 2 twenty years' old.

Seth ran for territorial Legislature but was defeated. He eventually ran for territorial Senate and served from 1871-1872. He was one of the people involved in the creation of Yellowstone national park on March 1, 1872.



Seth Bullock

After his term in the territorial Senate, Seth was elected as Sheriff of Lewis and Clark County in 1873. While he was serving his term, he was injured by a gunshot to the arm by a man named Clel Watson, who had stolen a horse. After Mr. Watson's trial he was on the gallows about to be hanged when a mob showed up and scared away the executioner. It is said that Mr. Bullock climbed up the gallows and held the mob off while pulling the lever for the execution himself.

Seth partnered with Solomon "Sol" Star to form the Star & Bullock Auctioneers and Commission Merchants. They set up shop in Helena, Montana.



The Star & Bullock Hardware Store

Seth married Martha Eccles in 1874. She was his childhood sweetheart; however, he had his wife and baby girl sent back to her family home in Michigan until he could settle in his new area.



Early days of the Hotel

The day before Seth and Sol arrived in Deadwood, South Dakota Wild Bill Hickok was shot by Jack McCall at the number ten saloon.

Seth and Sol decided that a hardware business would prosper in the camp of Deadwood. They arrived via Ox drawing wagon on August 1, 1876 with all of the supplies for the hardware store. They purchased a lot at the corner of Main and Wall Streets and set up a tent to open the new offices of Star and Bullock, Auctioneers and Commission Merchants.

The people of the camp knew that they needed a new sheriff, so they appointed Mr. Isaac Brown on August 5, 1876 by a "Miners Court". When Mr. Brown and his party were traveling between Crook County and Deadwood they were ambushed and killed. This left the position open in the town. The Court met again and appointed Con Stapleton as the new Sheriff.

In March, 1877 Governor Pennington appointed Seth as the Sheriff of Lawrence County.

Seth took on the job and was reported to have not even needed to carry a gun. His grandson was quoted as saying "He would outstare a mad cobra or a rogue elephant", so it was said that he could enforce the law by just being in town.

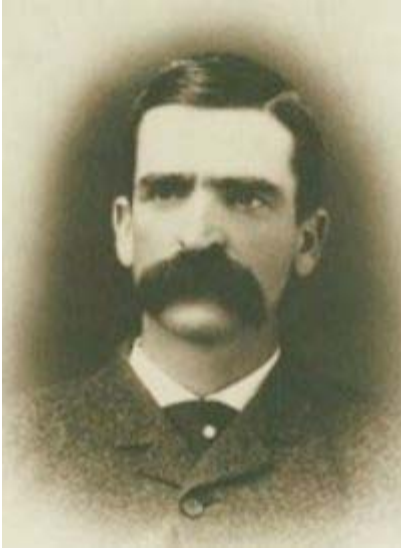
Seth and Sol eventually built a Hardware store on the property that they had set up shop on in 1876. From 1876-1894 the building housed the Hardware Store. The store was a single story building that was said to house a Blacksmith in the back. The lower level had its own entrance from Wall Street for access. When the basement was excavated during the last remodeling, they discovered an old forge that included several Ox shoes. This confirmed the rumor of the Blacksmith legend as well as the parking area being a turnaround and service for the Ox teams. They called the location Bull-Flats.



The “Cowboys”

When Seth was bringing a horse thief called “Crazy Steve” back to Deadwood for trial, he encountered a man who was the current Deputy Sheriff of Medora, North Dakota. This man was Theodore Roosevelt, who would eventually become President. Seth and Mr. Roosevelt became great friends and eventually Seth joined Roosevelt's famous Rough Riders. Seth was named as Captain of a Troop in Grigsby's Cowboy Regiment. Because of the end of the Spanish-American war the Troop never left the training camp. This did give Seth the opportunity to carry the title of Captain for the remainder of his life. In 1905, Seth formed a similar group in Deadwood called “The Cowboys”.

There was a fire in 1879 in Deadwood that destroyed much of the town and then there was a fire at the Hardware store that destroyed the majority of the building with the exception of the foundation and exterior walls. They rebuilt, but then in 1894 there was another fire that resulted in destruction of the interior of the building. This time Seth decided to add to the building and add a Hotel. The new Hotel cost \$40,000 and included sixty-three, ten by ten rooms, each with its own chamber pot and a full bathroom on each floor, steam heat.



Seth Bullock

When the town had settled down and became a safer place to live, Seth sent for his family to come live with him. The family consisted of their two daughters Madge and Floy, their son Stanley and his wife.

Seth's wife became a very popular member of the community, however late in life she had health issues and stayed primarily in her second floor room and was only seen on her balcony.

Seth was invited to Mr. Roosevelt's inauguration in 1905; he took his group of cowboys to the event. Mr. Roosevelt then appointed Seth Bullock as the United States Marshal for South Dakota. Seth held the position for nine years.



Seth and Theodore Roosevelt

Seth and Sol who had started the S&B Ranch Company, convinced the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad to route a new line across a ranch that they had started. By doing this the town of Belle Fourche was started and they even offered free lots of land to people wanting to move into the area. This formed the largest shipping area of livestock in the country as was all causing the County seat to be moved to the newly formed town.

Eventually Seth & Sol partnered with Harris Franklin for the Deadwood Flouring Mill in 1880. Seth was also the General Manager of the Mill.

When President Roosevelt died on January 6, 1919 Bullock had a monument constructed on sheep mountain in honor of him. The dedication ceremony was held on July 4, 1919.

The place of Seth's death is still in contention, he either passed away while in the Hotel in room 211 or at his ranch in Belle Fourche.



Seth and Martha's Grave

When the Hotel was remodeled in 1990 for its current incarnation, the building was in horrible condition, the majority of the wood had rotted, rooms were collapsed and the original roof had collapsed, leaving debris throughout the building. Over ten semis full of trash and damaged building were removed before the renovation could begin. The rooms that were originally ten by ten feet were remodeled into much larger rooms with private bathrooms and some with sitting areas, wet bars and Jacuzzi tubs. This renovation ended up leaving only twenty-eight rooms because of the size increase.



The “Ladies of the Bullock”

The ghost stories of the Bullock Hotel reflect the rich and colorful history of the location and its past residents. Some of the stories are based on facts while others have become more of the traditional urban legend style of story.



The top of the main staircase

The Bullock Hotel’s basement now known as Seth’s Cellar, was once a smallpox ward had hosted the majority of the children from town when they came down with the sickness. The reported ghosts from this time is a little girl named “Sarah”, and her mother (One of the prostitutes from Kitty’s Brothel) who were patients in the makeshift hospital at the Hotel. The legend tells of Sarah watching her mother die just before she was taken by the disease. The ghost of Sarah has been reported by many children over the years. The story is that when a child has wandered off or is not being supervised, the little girl coaxes them into the basement

with the promise of toys and a companion to play with. The children also report that a “Tall man” tells that they need to return to their parents and sometimes even helps them back. Several parents have reported seeing their child walking down the hall with one hand in the air, when asked why they were acting like that, they tell their parents it was because the man who helped them back was holding their hand. When some of the children have been in the basement with their parents they have pointed out a man in a photograph behind the bar as the person who helped them back to their parents. The photograph is a portrait of Seth’s lifelong friend Theodore Roosevelt.



There is a story from an employee who had worked at the Hotel for over fourteen years, that claims when they were preparing for a child’s birthday party by inflating helium balloons (about forty-five of them) the balloons were all clinging to the ceiling, but occasionally one would quickly pull down and go back up, as if someone was tugging on them. They also say that during the party all of the balloons popped at one time.



The Bar during renovations (1991)

A woman who had been given a visit to the hotel as a gift by her husband just before his death, decided to take the vacation as a way to remember her husband. She was staying in room 303 and one evening around 2:00 in the morning she went to the front desk to report that she had been awakened by someone sitting at the foot of her bed. She reported that he was a tall man with a hat. When she looked up she says that he “just vanished”, she refused to stay in the room and the staff had to get her belonging out of the room for her because she refused to go back into the room.



Basement hallway

Bully's Bar is also the reported location of one of the more recent full apparitions of Seth Bullock being seen.

The smells of Lilac, Roses and Cigar smoke are reported throughout the hotel. The cigar smell is mostly reported in room 211 (Mr. Bullocks old room) as well as the Casino floor. The other scents are reported throughout the entire building.

The cleaning staff reports that they cart that is used to carry supplies between the rooms will be moved to other rooms when there are no other staff members cleaning in the area.



The ball that fell off of the chair

The Bullock suite has had reports of the Phantom clock that is said to ring on its own, there is a replica of the hat that Seth used to wear that is on the top of the entertainment center, some guests have reported that it has moved to other locations of the room and even claimed to see it float across the room.



Ball on the table near the back of the basement

Maintenance staff has reported that they will turn on the radio in a room while they are working and the channel will change by itself to a country station (Mr. Bullocks favorite kind of music)

In the past, a piano that is now located near the entrance to Bully's Bar was in the basement and people would report that they would hear a piano playing when there was no one in the basement.



The Haunted Mirror at the top of the main staircase

Several rooms in the Hotel are reported to have some kind of paranormal activity, these rooms are:

205, 207, 208, 209, 211, 302, 303, 314, Bully's Bar and Seth's Cellar. All of them have had reports of appliances and lights working by themselves, the sounds of children when there are none present in the area.



Top of the main stairs

Staff has reported that just after changing a roll of toilet tissue, they will go back into the restroom to find all of the paper throughout the room and the spool still on the holder.



The bar where the ball rolled

A letter for a past guest, relates a story of a woman who was waiting for her husband to come back to the room, when she witnessed some paperwork “fly off of the television” and then felt what she thought was her husband sit next to her in the bed. When she turned to comment about the papers she discovered that she was the only one in the room.

The Investigation:

The team arrived at 2:00 in the morning on January 18, 2008. Upon arrival the equipment was unpacked and the team did an initial survey and tour of the location. The team members were assigned to different rooms, and got some rest before the investigation began.



The coffee machine that turned on by itself

The team reconvened at 9:00 in the morning. We discussed the reported locations of activity with staff members and some of the guests of the Hotel. We also attended the Ghost Tour that highlighted some of the traditional stores and legends of the Hotel.



The Base location located in the main Casino

After discussing the locations, we decided on several locations:

- Seth's Cellar – Located in the basement of the Hotel
 - The hallway leading to the kitchen area from the basement bar area
- The central stairway at the front of the building
- The top of the main staircase at the front of the building
- The two mirrors at the top of the main staircase
- Room 303
- Room 211
- The back stairway leading to Bully's Bar
- The main hallway on the third floor
- The main hallway on the second floor

- The casino area where we would also locate our baseHourly EMF readings were taken (Baselines were taken during setup)

E.M.F. Data from the Bullock Hotel investigation

	12:30am	1:30am	2:30am	3:30am
2nd Floor & Stair to 1st Floor				
1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5
2	1	0.5	1	0
3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
4	0	0.5	1	0
Basement & Back Hallway				
1	0.5	0.5	0	0
2	0.5	0.5	0	0
3	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0
6	0	0.5	0.5	0.5
7	0	0	0	0.5
8	0	0	0	0
Rm 303				
1	1	1	1	0.5
2	0.5	1	1	1
3	1	0.5	1.5	1
4	0.75	0.75	0.5	0.5

	9pm	10pm	11pm	1am	2:30am
2nd Floor & Stair to 1st Floor					
1	0	1	1.5	0.5	0.5
2	0.5	0.5	1.5	1	1
3	1	1	1	1	1
4	0	1.5	1.5	1	1.5
Basement & Back Hallway					
1	0.5	1.75	1.5	2	2
2	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0
Rm 303					
1	1	1.5	0.5	1.5	
2	1	1.5	1	0.5	
3	0.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	
4	1	1	1	0.5	
Rm 313					
1	0.25	1	0.5	0	1.5
2	0	1	0.5	1	0
3	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
4	1	1	1	1.5	0.5
Bully's Bar					
			12:30am		
1	0	NA	0		0
2	0	NA	0		0.5
3	0	NA	0.5		0.5
4	0	NA	0.5		0.5
5	0.5	0	0.5		0.5

	7:30pm	8:30pm	9:30pm	10:30pm	11:30pm	12:30am	1:30am
2nd Floor & Stair to 1st Floor							
1	1	0.5	1	0	0	0	0.5
2	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0	1
3	2	1	1	0	1	1	0.5
4	0	0.25	0.25	0	0.5	0	1
Basement & Back Hallway							
1		1.5		1	1	1	1.5
2		0		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
3		0		0.5	0.5	1	0.5
4		0		0.5	1	1	0.5
5		0		0.5	1	1	1
6		0		0	0	0.5	0
7		0		0	0.5	0	1
8		0		0	0	0	0
Rm 211							
1	1	0.25	1	1	0.5	1	1
2	1	1	1.5	0.5	0	0.5	1
3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	0.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1

Equipment:

Seth's Cellar –

- Video camera located at the base of the stairs looking towards the seating

- Video camera located on the bench looking towards the seating
- Video camera located at the back of the room looking at the seating area, later moved to view the end of the bar
- Video camera looking at the back hallway near the elevator; it was later moved to the main room to watch a table with control objects
- Video camera located at the back of the room looking at the bar
- Video camera located at the back of the room looking at the seating area at the bar
- Video camera at the base of the stairs looking at the bar
- Video camera located on a table next to the stairs looking at the bar
- Video camera located on the bar, and later located to look at the mirror behind the bar
- EMF meter located on the bar (where the video camera could record it)
- 2 – Nerf ballistic balls located on the bar as control objects
- Foam baseball located on one of the chairs in the seating area
- Balloons located throughout the basement to monitor air currents (last night only)
- Nerf ballistic ball located on a round table at the back of the seating area
- 3 – Crayons on the round table at the back of the seating area
- 4 – Crayons on a piece of paper on a table across from the bar
- Microphone located at the base of the stairs
- Microphone located at the back of the room
- A dusting of cornstarch at the bar to monitor for any possible movement

- Video camera looking towards kitchen area
- Video camera looking back towards the basement entrance area



Entrance to the Roosevelt Suite

Main stairway at the front of the building:

- Video camera located at the bottom of the stairs looking up
- Top of the main stairway:
 - Video camera looking at the vertical mirror
 - Video camera looking at the horizontal mirror
- EMF meter near the horizontal mirror that could be recorded with the video
- Nerf ballistic ball on the top of the vertical mirror

- Microphone located at the top of the stairs

Room 303:

- Video camera covering entire room

Room 211:

- Video camera located near the window aiming towards the entrance door
- Video camera located near the door looking towards the bed
- Nerf control object on the middle of the bed

Back stairway leading to Bully's Bar: (1st night)

- Video camera looking down the stairway from the third floor

Bully's Bar: (2nd & 3rd nights)

- Video camera located at the back of the dining booths looking towards the fireplace
- Video camera located on the bar looking down the bar

Third floor hallway:

- Video camera looking down hallway from front of building

Main Casino:

- Video camera mounted on top of a slot machine watching base location

First night of monitoring:

Setup started at 9:00 p.m. While equipment was being set up maps were being created to determine areas for hourly temperature and EMF readings and baseline readings were taken



The fireplace in the Bar

The baseline temperatures were:

- 73 at the base location
- 61.4 in the basement
- 67.3 on the second floor and the top of the main stairs

Temperatures remained consistent throughout the monitoring. The monitoring area ranged from 72-76 degrees. The basement area ranged from 60.1 – 66.4 degrees. The top of the main stairs ranged from 66.6 – 67.3 degrees. No unusual temperature changes were noted.



Bully's Bar

At 1:15 two team members were in Seth's Cellar and reported hearing something at the bar. As they approached the bar, the coffee machine at the end of the bar started making coffee (there was no coffee in the machine just the water). Where the water was dripping was dusty and showed no signs of previous moisture. The staff said that the coffee machine had not been used for several years.

At 2:25 the camera located in the hallway from the basement to the kitchen dimmed like something had blocked the infra-red light on the camera, however the image itself was not blocked.

After the team packed up the equipment and returned to their rooms, Baxter reported that in his room (307) he heard the "sound of boots on a hardwood floor) just outside the bathroom. This area is carpeted, so that sound was not possible. He checked the hallway to see if anyone was outside and the hall was empty.

Second night of monitoring:

We decided to set up earlier because the areas that we were monitoring were not open to the public, so it would allow us to collect data over a longer period of time.



Setup was completed at 8:30 p.m.

The baseline temperatures were:

75.4 at the base location

63.7 in the basement

66.6 on the second floor at the top of the main stairs

The temperatures remained consistent throughout the evening. The base location ranged from 75.4 – 77.9 degrees. The basement ranged from 63.2 – 63.7 degrees. The top of the main stairs ranged from 62.6 – 66.6 degrees. There were no unusual temperature changes noted.



At 8:10 one of the two nerf balls located on the bar in Seth's Cellar rolled approximately six inches towards the back of the bar and stopped abruptly just in front of the other ball on the bar. We attempted to recreate the roll but no matter what we did the ball would roll off the bar or hit the other ball on the bar. The bar showed no signs of wear or grooves that would have caused the roll. We used a level and determined that the bar was level.



Basement area used for tours

At 8:21 the soft baseball that was located on a chair in the seating area of Seth's Cellar rolled up the chair and off of the front of the chair, ending up approximately six feet from the chair. When we place the ball back on the chair it would roll off of the back of the chair (the natural slope of the chair)

One team member was walking back taking EMF readings, they said that they turned around to talk to the person that they had heard behind them and discovered that they were the only ones in the area.



Cornstarch on the floor near the bar

Once again Baxter reported hearing what sounded like "boots on a hardwood floor" when he went to his room for supplies.

The third day of monitoring:

We set up even earlier for the final day of monitoring the Hotel.

All of the equipment was set up and baselines taken by 7:00 p.m.

The baseline temperatures were:

75.4 at the base location

63.7 in the basement

66.6 on the second floor at the top of the main stairs



The Casino

The temperatures remained consistent throughout the evening. The base location ranged from 75.4 – 77.9 degrees. The basement ranged from 63.2 – 63.7 degrees. The top of the main stairs ranged from 62.6 – 66.6 degrees. There were no unusual temperature changes noted.

Baxter reported that while he was in the Casino looking at the large portrait of Seth Bullock and the Cowboys, he turned around to talk to the person behind him and there was nobody there.



Balloons on the chairs to check for air current

For the duration of the investigation there were no significant events.

The Haunted Clock:

The story of the clock is that when people are walking around in the room the bell of the clock will chime, and the clock no longer works.



The Haunted Clock

We examined the clock and determined that the reason that the clock no longer worked was due to the majority of the mechanics having been removed. The bell and lever to activate the bell were the only thing that remained in the clock, because of this any vibration (such as a person walking in the room) would cause the bell to ring.

The Haunted Mirror:

The story of the mirror at the top of the main staircase claims that when people take photographs of the mirror, images will appear in that cannot be seen by just looking at the mirror. The images seen include; Celtic Cross, Anarchy Symbol, Mysterious writing, and many other explanations. This is claimed to be one of the original mirrors from the Hotel and one of the oldest items remaining.

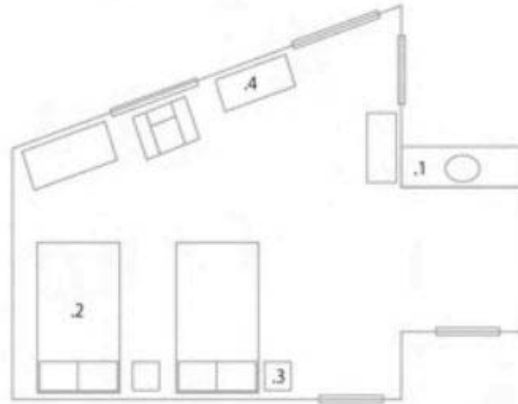
We examined the mirror and discovered that it is not an antique and the images that appear in the photographs are caused by an uneven reflective surface due to the glue that was used to adhere the mirror to the cardboard backing.

Bullock's Hotel, Deadwood, SD 01/18/08 - 01/19/08
Room Diagrams

Room 303



Room 313



Room 211



Bully's Bar



Bullock's Hotel, Deadwood, SD 01/18/08 - 01/19/08
Room Diagrams

