

Small Historic Towns across America.

As presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: www.fpeusa.org

Brief History of Deadwood, South Dakota

Deadwood was established in 1876 during the Black Hills gold rush. In 1875, a miner named John B. Pearson found gold in a narrow canyon in the Northern Black Hills. This canyon became known as "Deadwood Gulch," because of all the dead trees that were beside the canyon walls at the time. The name stuck and still has over 125 years later.

Most of Deadwood's population in its early years was people there to mine for gold, but the lawless region naturally attracted a crowd. This made Deadwood pretty rough and wild. Many saloons, gambling establishments, dance halls, and brothels filled the streets. These establishments were considered legitimate businesses and were well known throughout the area.

By 1877, the tents and shanties that the early miners had been housed in quickly evolved to wood and brick buildings. On Sept. 26, 1879, a fire started at a bakery on Sherman Street and spread to the business district of Deadwood. The fire damaged the business district, but the community soon rebuilt itself with brick and stone rather than lumber.

Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s)

Deadwood, South Dakota is located west of Rapid City. Take interstate 90 west and take exit 30 for U.S. Hwy 14. Turn left onto Lazelle Street and continue on U.S. 14 until you reach Deadwood-Lead.

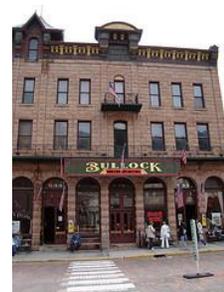
Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time?

The president of the United States, when Deadwood was founded in 1876, was Ulysses S. Grant. He was a Republican from Ohio. The Republicans agreed to withdraw federal troops from the South, ending reconstruction, at this time. The Civil War recently had come to a close.



Oldest businesses/largest businesses today

The Bullock Hotel is located at the corner of Wall and Main Street in Deadwood. It was built by Seth Bullock, the first sheriff of Deadwood, and his business partner, in around 1895. It is the oldest hotel in Deadwood, withholding a casino, restaurant, and 28 of its original 63 rooms. From 1991-1997, the hotel was under construction due to renovation.



City government

Chuck Turbiville is the mayor of Deadwood, South Dakota.

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Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events.

A few of the many historic attractions in Deadwood include: Adams Museum, Broken Boot Gold Mine, Deadwood 1876 Theater, Deadwood's Wild Bills Trading Post, and the Gold Nugget Trading Post/Chinatown Tours. Surrounding Deadwood, there are places like The Badlands National Park, Mount Rushmore, 1880 Train, Wonderland Cave, Devils Tower, and Reptile Gardens.

The major events in Deadwood are mostly rodeos and festivities like Deadweird and the Days of '76.

Where can we stay if we visit Deadwood?

The Bullock Hotel and Casino is Deadwood's first and finest hotel in this small town. The hotel is within walking distance of Deadwood's downtown activities. Guests will have wifi access, two complimentary bottles of water in every room, hairdryers, a 24 hour casino, a full service restaurant, free parking, and all non-smoking rooms. Some suites you are able to stay in have Jacuzzis.

Website: <http://www.historicbullock.com/>

Why would I want to visit this historic small town?

I have visited Deadwood before, when I was younger, and not very much into the history of Deadwood at all. I would like to go back there someday and explore some of the museums to really delve into the history of this little town some more. It seems like a luxurious place to stay and I have never gotten the chance to stay there before, only pass through, so I would like to get that opportunity again one of these days.

Links you may wish to visit

<http://www.deadwood.org/thingstodo/attractions/>

<http://www.deadwood.org/>