
IN MEMORIAM

Herbert T. Hoover

1930–2019

Herbert T. Hoover, long-time professor of history at the University of South Dakota, died 21 March 2019.

Hoover was born 9 March 1930 in Wabasha, Minnesota. After graduating from Plainview High School, he attended the University of Minnesota. Following service in the Marine Corps during the Korean War, he returned to the university and graduated with a degree in chemistry.

While working as a pharmacist, Hoover decided to pursue his interest in history. He earned his master's degree from New Mexico State University and his Ph.D. in the history of the American West from the University of Oklahoma. While teaching at East Texas State University, he received an offer from the history department at the University of South Dakota to replace Herbert S. Schell, who was retiring. Hoover accepted, joining the faculty in 1967 and remaining in that position for almost four decades.

In addition to teaching and researching South Dakota history, Hoover played an integral role in the South Dakota Oral History Center as coordinator of the American Indian Research Project. Alongside historian Joseph H. Cash, he spent decades collecting oral histories throughout the state, using fifty-two of them as the basis for the book *To Be an Indian* (1971). Hoover went on to author, edit, or contribute to twenty other books, including *South Dakota Leaders* (1988); two annotated bibliographies of South Dakota histories, with one dedicated to the history of the Sioux; the textbook *Sioux Country* (2000); and *A New South Dakota History* (2005).

He remained with the University of South Dakota as an emeritus professor after retiring in 2006 and contributed several of his own oral histories to the center's collection. Hoover served on the advisory board of editors for *South Dakota History* from 1979 through 2015.