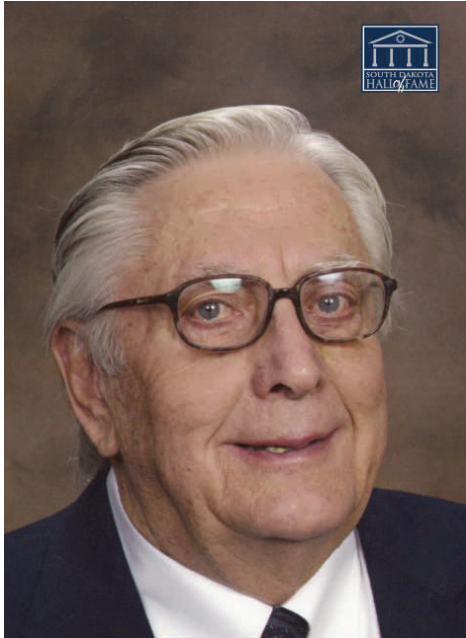


Inducted 2013



Bruce Blake was born in Superior, WI, in March 1, 1931, to parents Arthur and Hazel (Gillespie) Blake. As a youth, he lived with his parents and two older brothers in Mankato, MN. His father was transferred to Sioux Falls and the family moved late in 1945 after World War II ended. Bruce entered the original Washington High School as a freshman. After graduating in 1949, he enrolled at the University of South Dakota.

In 1953 he earned a B.Sci. Degree from the USD Business School and also was commissioned as an ROTC Second Lieutenant, Infantry.

J. BRUCE BLAKE, WHS class of 1949, was named “Mr. Historical Marker” on his 2009 induction into the South Dakota Hall of Fame. Known for his distinguished contribution as an historian throughout the region and state, Bruce Blake, attorney, enjoyed an avocation as historian which began in 1962 and will culminate with the publication of his 600-page book, *Twelve Thousand Years of Human History*(As Recorded on 250 Historical Markers), that will include 250 marker texts, 800 photos, maps and illustrations. The marker texts are organized chronologically and then divided into seven timeline subdivisions: Geologic, Prehistoric, Historic, Minnesota Territory, Unorganized Territory, Dakota Territory, and South Dakota. The book’s title refers to the approximate date that local archeologists believe the first humans entered present-day Minnehaha County.

A member of the Minnehaha County Historical Society since 1962, Bruce served four terms as a director, two terms as first vice president and program chair, and two terms as president. He created the Society's historical marker program in 1988. He also began a Registered Historian program to encourage visitors and local residents to learn more about local history.

Working on behalf of the Minnehaha County Historical Society, Bruce has been compiling a 500-page book titled, “Twelve Thousand Years of Human History” (as recorded on 235 Historical Markers) during the last five years. Archeologists believe that the first humans to enter Minnehaha County did so about twelve thousand years ago. The book will contain the text for the more than 235 historical markers that Bruce has either dedicated or identified. More than 600 photos, maps, and drawings will complement the historical marker texts. The markers are organized chronologically and then divided into five timeline subdivisions: Geologic, Prehistoric, Historic, Dakota Territory and South Dakota. Publication of *Twelve Thousand Years of Human History* will mark the culmina-