

About the Author



Gilbert Fite (1918-2010)

Born in 1918 in Santa Fe, Ohio, Gilbert Fite grew up in Perkins and Jerauld Counties, South Dakota, with his parents who were both farmers and schoolteachers. After graduating from high school in Wessington Springs, he continued in junior college there for awhile, before finishing his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of South Dakota. His Ph.D. work at the University of Missouri focused on agricultural history. He published a revised version of his dissertation as *Peter Norbeck: Prairie Statesman* in 1948. He received two prestigious Fulbright Fellowships as well as ones from Ford and Guggenheim. During the course of his distinguished career, he served terms as president of the Agricultural History Society, the Southern Historical Association, the Western History Association, and Phi Alpha Theta. He was president of Eastern Illinois University for five years before finishing his active career as the Richard B. Russell Chair in American History at the University of Georgia. Besides being co-author of seven books and editor of three volumes, he authored more than sixty articles and nine books, including *The Farmer's Frontier, 1865-1900* (1966), *American Farmers: The New Minority* (1981), and *Cotton Fields No More: Southern Agriculture, 1865-1980* (1984). He died in 2010 at the age of 92.

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