

# S-VE Graduate of Distinction

## Woodbridge Ferris



Woodbridge Ferris was a humanitarian, an educator and a statesman. He was born in 1853 in a log cabin on Hagadorn Hill Road in the town of Spencer. At the age of four years, he attended the district school and at age 14, he entered the Spencer Union Academy. After attending the Oswego Normal School and the University of Michigan, he returned to serve as the principal of Spencer High School during the years of 1874-1875. In 1884 Woodbridge established the Big Rapids Industrial School, in Big Rapids Michigan, that eventually became Ferris State University. He was a bank president and was twice elected Governor of Michigan. In 1922 he was elected a United States Senator. Woodbridge Ferris died in office in Washington, D.C. on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1928, and is interred in Highland View Cemetery in Big Rapids Michigan.