Second Lieutenant Francis Brown Lowry

Francis was born in Denver, Colorado on December 1, 1894. At the onset of World War I, he enlisted as an aerial observer for reconnaissance missions. During the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (the last offensive of the war), he took off with his pilot, despite terrible weather conditions for flying, to gather photographic intelligence of enemy positions and movements. While flying behind enemy lines, the plane was shot down near Crépion, France by German anti-aircraft fire. He became the first and only pilot from Colorado to be killed in action during World War I and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery while serving in France.

Originally buried in Argonne Cemetery in Romagne, France, his remains were transferred to Fairmount Cemetery in Denver, Colorado in 1921 where his parents are also buried. In 1924, the Colorado Air National Guard built an airfield adjacent to Fairmount and named it after 2nd Lieutenant Lowry.

The World War I Memorial

The Lowry family donated the beautiful World War I Memorial to Fairmount Cemetery to honor the lives of those lost in the war. Francis Brown Lowry was interred directly in front of a bronze statue depicting a WWI soldier staring off at the enemy line in the horizon. This post is also known as the Lowry Post.