



Photos by Tim Evanson

Glenwood Cemetery – 2219 Lincoln Road, NE

Benjamin C. Grenup Monument

Memorial to Fallen District of Columbia Fireman



Benjamin C. Grenup Monument



The Benjamin C. Grenup Monument marks the final resting place of 24-year old firefighter Benjamin Grenup, one of the District's first firefighters killed in the line of duty. At the time of his death, water wagons carrying hoses and firefighting equipment were pulled by firemen rather than horses. Greenup was killed when the wagon he was pulling down Pennsylvania Avenue on the way to a blaze on 7th Street NW collided with a lamppost, crushing him underneath its wheels. His colleagues collected \$4,000 and two years later commissioned the American sculptor Charles Rousseau to immortalize the firefighter. The monument includes carvings of the accident, fire axe, torch, fire hose, and nozzles; three decorative fire taps surround the memorial.

Grenup death is recognized as an early fireman fatality at the District's fire training academy and the memorial has come to be considered a monument to all firefighters killed while serving the District. Today, District Engine Company No. 3, the current incarnation of Columbia Fire Company No. 1, still sends new firemen on an annual pilgrimage to the Grenup monument.