



## ELMER AMBROSE SPERRY, SR.

*Innovator (1860 - 1930)*

Sperry was an American inventor and entrepreneur. During the early 1900's Sperry experimented with gyroscopic compasses and stabilizers for ships. With Herman Anschütz-Kaempfe, Sperry invented the gyrocompass (also known as the heading indicator): a compass that relies on the spinning of the Earth to find true north, rather than magnetic north. The gyrocompass was an improvement over the traditional magnetic compass for aircraft; navigation using true north was more reliable, and because the gyrocompass did not rely on the magnetic field, it was not affected by the metal of an aircraft's hull and control panel.