



## Boy in Blue Memorial Project News

Boy in Blue Memorial Project  
% Blue Earth County Historical Society  
415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN 56001  
For more information, email: [julie@mnheritage.com](mailto:julie@mnheritage.com)  
[www.boyinblue.org](http://www.boyinblue.org)  
[www.facebook.com/BoyinBlueProject](http://www.facebook.com/BoyinBlueProject)

### Historic Lincoln Park

The small triangular piece of land bordered by Broad, Lincoln and Grove Streets was made into a park in the mid-1880s. Wishing to perpetuate the memory of the honored dead of the Civil War, the Alexander Wilkin Post, Grand Army of the Republic placed a bronze monument of a Civil War private soldier holding a musket at parade rest on a pedestal in the center of a stone basin. At each corner of the basin were ram's heads from which water would flow.

A dedication ceremony was held on Memorial Day, 1893. The soldier's monument was called the *Boy in Blue*. The *Boy in Blue* graced the park until 1922 when it was damaged by weather, vandals and lack of maintenance. (Photo: Blue Earth County Historical Society)



On Tuesday, July 5, 2011, the Mankato Area Community Band presented "When Billy Comes Marching Home" patriotic concert at Mankato's historic Lincoln Park (Lincoln, Grove and Broad Street intersection).

The concert commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the outbreak of the American Civil War (2011-2015). A special announcement was made regarding an effort to recreate the *Boy in*

*Blue* statue and fountain that once graced Mankato's Lincoln Park.

On August 30, 2011 on the front lawn of the Lincoln Community Center, members of the Boy in Blue Project Committee were on hand at the annual Lincoln Park neighborhood Night to Unite to answer questions about the statue and its history, as well as to officially kick-off efforts to receive financial contributions for the project. Photos were on display for the Boy in Blue project and brochures available.

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Mankato's famous literary daughter, **Maud Hart Lovelace**, grew up several blocks from Lincoln Park. In an article written for the "I Remember Mankato" series published in the *Mankato Free Press* in 1952, Maud wrote, "*As we grew older we made more trips downtown, pausing to play by the fountain at Lincoln Park or rest under the big elm there.*" The little park and the fountain was an important landmark in Maud's Betsy-Tacy books.

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## **Civil War Symposium**

### **"We Cannot Escape History"**

**Saturday, March 24, 2012 9 am – 4 pm**

**Heritage Center and the Summit Center**

415 Cherry Street in Mankato

Proceeds to benefit the Boy in Blue Memorial Project

Presentations, costumed interpreters, storytelling and interactive exhibits,  
panel discussion, Civil War era music, gift shop, lunch, and more.

Program includes:

Boy in Blue Memorial Project – Bryce Stenzel

Boys in Blue: Blue Earth County in the Civil War - Roger Norland

A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier – Arn Kind

Discovering Our Civil War Ancestors – Susan Hynes

First Minnesota Regiment in the Civil War Campaigns of 1862 – Jefferson Spilman

Lincoln's Trials by Fire – Bryce Stenzel

B is for Battle Cry: A Civil War Alphabet - Pat Bauer & David Geister

On the Homefront – Betty Cords & Alexandria Oldenburg

Registration and program descriptions are found at [www.boyinblue.org](http://www.boyinblue.org).

This program is for all ages. Sponsored by the Boy in Blue Memorial Committee.

Join the effort to restore the  
*Boy in Blue* Civil War memorial  
to Mankato's historic Lincoln Park.

The following organizations have already stepped forward to support and promote this cause:

- Anthony Wayne Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- Blue Earth County Historical Society
- City of Mankato Dept. of Public Works
  - Parks
  - Streets
  - Utilities
- Lincoln Park Neighborhood Assoc.
- Mankato Area Community Band
- Mankato Area Foundation
- Maud Hart Lovelace Society
- Minnesota Heritage Publishing

This project is a grassroots community effort. Will you consider making a similar commitment, whether it be financial or in-kind? It may cost approximately \$100,000 to rebuild the memorial. But as Lincoln believed, "trust the people," and great things will happen!

YOU can help return the "Boy in Blue" to Lincoln Park by sending a tax-deductible donation to:

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