

# Glenwood Cemetery Civil War Veterans Headstone Dedication

Saturday, May 16, 2026 • Glenwood Cemetery • Mankato, Minnesota

## In Remembrance

Honoring fourteen Civil War veterans whose lives, service, and sacrifices helped shape both our nation and our local community. These men came from many different backgrounds and served in Union regiments across the country. After the war, many made their homes in Mankato and southern Minnesota. Their stories remind us that the history of the Civil War did not end on the battlefield. It continued in the lives they built afterward and in the communities they helped create. May we continue to honor the memory of these veterans and preserve the stories of those who served during the Civil War and later helped build the communities of southern Minnesota.

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### *Glenwood Cemetery - Section 1*

#### **Private William Augustus Coy - Company K, 1st Minnesota Infantry**

William Augustus Coy enlisted at Fort Snelling on May 22, 1861, at the age of 21. He was wounded at the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, and was discharged because of his injuries on February 18, 1863, at Falmouth, Virginia.

Born December 22, 1842, in Hartford, Connecticut, Coy came to Mankato in 1855 and worked as a bricklayer. He married Annabelle Grubb, and together they raised three children: Eugene, Edmund, and Alberta. Coy was an active member of Alexander Wilkin Post No. 19 of the Grand Army of the Republic. He died in Mankato on January 1, 1899, at the age of 59.

#### **Private Wilford Thomas Matthews - Company K, 1st Minnesota Cavalry**

Wilford Thomas Matthews enlisted on March 23, 1863, at the age of 18 and served with the 1st Minnesota Cavalry until December 10, 1863.

Born June 25, 1846, in Camden, New York, Matthews married Sarah Anna Loudon in Mankato shortly after his enlistment on April 4, 1863. Together they raised a large family of ten children: Thaddeus, G.B., Burton, Marie, Sophia, Gertrude, Nellie, Winifred, Emma, and Robert. Matthews died in Mankato on January 11, 1892, at the age of 45.

#### **Second Lieutenant George J. Stannard – Company H, 4th Minnesota Infantry • Company F, 1st Minnesota Heavy Artillery**

George J. Stannard enlisted as a corporal on November 5, 1861, in Blue Earth County with Company H of the 4th Minnesota Infantry. He was discharged in October 1862 at Jackson, Tennessee. In February 1865, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in Company F of the 1st Minnesota Heavy Artillery and resigned his commission later that year.

Born July 1, 1841, in New York, Stannard married Mary Evangeline Payne in 1871. They had one daughter, Maud Mabel. He died on September 17, 1876, at the age of 35.

*Glenwood Cemetery - Section 2*

**Private Ferdinand Rosenau - Company C,  
1st Minnesota Heavy Artillery**

Carl Ferdinand "Fred" Rosenau enlisted on October 7, 1864, at Elysian, Minnesota, and served in Company C of the 1st Minnesota Heavy Artillery until his discharge on June 17, 1865.

Born July 25, 1836, in Kolmar, Prussia (present-day Poland), Rosenau immigrated to the United States in 1862. He married Anna Rosina Schuetz, and together they raised seven children. He later worked in real estate and was active in the local community. Rosenau died on May 2, 1914, at the age of 78.

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*Glenwood Cemetery - Section 3*

**Private Albert Henry Steifenhofer -  
Company K, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry**

Albert Henry Steifenhofer enlisted on August 16, 1864, in Sauk City, Wisconsin, and served with Company K of the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry. He was wounded during the final months of the war and was discharged on August 14, 1865.

Born in Switzerland in June 1850, Steifenhofer later settled in Mankato and Amboy, Minnesota. He married Alma Park in 1875, and they raised four children. City directories later listed him as a land agent and real estate dealer. In his later years he lived at the Soldiers Home in Minneapolis. He died in Rapid City, South Dakota, on March 23, 1921.

*Glenwood Cemetery - Section 4*

**Private Elijah Howe - Field & Staff, 35th  
Illinois Infantry Band**

Elijah Howe enlisted in Dayton, Ohio, on August 19, 1861, and served as leader of the regimental band of the 35th Illinois Infantry. Poor health forced him to leave the service after six months.

Born in Vernon, Vermont, in 1821, Howe showed remarkable musical talent from a young age. After moving to Mankato in 1865, he devoted his life to music instruction, leading bands and teaching students throughout southern Minnesota, including in Mankato, Garden City, St. Peter, Cleveland, Shelbyville, and Good Thunder.

He and his wife Elizabeth Alexander raised two children, George and Ella. Howe died in Mankato on March 6, 1880, at the age of 59.

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*Glenwood Cemetery - Section 6*

**Assistant Surgeon William Wycoff Clark -  
Field & Staff, 10th Minnesota Infantry**

Dr. William Wycoff Clark enlisted in 1862 and served as Assistant Surgeon with the 10th Minnesota Infantry. During the war he rose to the position of acting Division Surgeon in the 16th Army Corps.

Born January 5, 1821, in Pennsylvania, Clark married Adaline Babbitt in Ohio in 1857. The family moved to Mankato in 1858, where Clark quickly established himself as a physician. Following the war, he became one of the most respected surgeons in southern Minnesota. He was associated professionally with the father of the Mayo brothers of Rochester and also served as the official physician at the 1862 Dakota hanging in Mankato. Clark died in Mankato on January 1, 1878, at the age of 56.

**Private Noah C. Conner - Company E, 9th Minnesota Infantry**

Noah C. Conner enlisted in Mankato on August 19, 1862, and served with Company E of the 9th Minnesota Infantry until being mustered out at Fort Snelling on August 24, 1865.

Born in New Hampshire in 1828, Conner worked as a constable in Mankato before the war. He married Sarah A. Thompson and remained in the community after his military service. He died in Mankato on December 26, 1871, at the age of 42.

**Private John Griswold - Company C, 8th New York Heavy Artillery**

John Griswold enlisted on July 19, 1862, at Albion, New York, and served with the 8th New York Heavy Artillery until his discharge in Baltimore in June 1865.

Born July 11, 1840, in Orleans County, New York, Griswold later settled in southern Minnesota. He died tragically on May 21, 1884, at the age of 44, after suffering injuries from a bull attack.

**Lieutenant Colonel John F. Robinson - Field & Staff, 53rd United States Colored Troops**

John F. Robinson began his Civil War service in 1861 as a First Sergeant in the 42nd Ohio Infantry. He rose steadily in rank, becoming Major and later Lieutenant Colonel of the 53rd United States Colored Troops.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1844, Robinson was only in his early twenties when he achieved field officer rank. He married Mary L., and together they had four children: Tullie, John K., Mary A., and William. Robinson died in Mankato on May 22, 1877, at the age of 35.

**Major Robert Hutchinson Rose - Field & Staff, 2nd Minnesota Cavalry**

Robert Hutchinson Rose enlisted in Mankato on November 1, 1861, in what became one of Minnesota's earliest volunteer cavalry companies. Over the course of the war he rose from orderly sergeant to Major of the 2nd Minnesota Cavalry.

Rose accompanied General Sully's expedition to the Yellowstone and later supervised the construction of Fort Wadsworth. He also helped organize friendly Native American scouts who protected frontier settlements from raids.

Born June 30, 1831, in Pennsylvania, Rose attended Princeton College before moving west. He came to Minnesota in 1855 and later settled in Mankato, where he operated a real estate and insurance business. He also served as a Minnesota state senator from Le Sueur County in 1871-1872.

Rose and his wife Charlotte Sewell Ladd raised four children: Fanny Emily, Dickinson Logan, Robert Hutchinson Jr, and Henry W. He died in Mankato on March 18, 1885, at the age of 53.

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*Glenwood Cemetery - Section 7*

**Private Niels Peter Nielson (Nels Nelson) - Company F, 28th Wisconsin Infantry**

Niels Peter Nielson enlisted in Wisconsin on August 21, 1862, and served until being discharged for disability in July 1865.

Born in Denmark on April 21, 1840, he immigrated to America in 1861. A miller by trade, Nielson worked in mills throughout Mankato and the surrounding communities. During the final year of his life he joined his son in the jewelry business in Worthington, Minnesota.

Nielson married Mary Jenson in 1869, and they had two sons. He was a member of Alexander Wilkin Post No. 19 of the Grand Army of the Republic. He died on April 24, 1893, at the age of 53.

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*Glenwood Cemetery - Section 8*

**Sergeant Howard S. Hatch - Company E,  
8th Minnesota Infantry**

Howard S. Hatch enlisted in Mankato on August 19, 1862, and served with Company E of the 8th Minnesota Infantry until 1865.

Born December 1, 1827, in Oswego County, New York, Hatch came to Minnesota during the 1850s and lived in both Mankato and Lake Crystal. He married Amanda Springer in 1853, and together they raised three sons: Frederick, William, and Frank.

Hatch died in Blue Earth County on December 16, 1878, at the age of 51.

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*Glenwood Cemetery - Section 12*

**Corporal Benjamin Franklin Rollins -  
Independent Company, 1st United States  
Infantry**

Benjamin Franklin Rollins experienced the Civil War from both sides of the conflict. Originally drafted into a Confederate Virginia regiment, he was captured after the Battle of Gettysburg and held as a prisoner of war. After escaping captivity and later serving time in a Union prison camp, he enlisted in the Union Army on October 1, 1863.

Rollins first served in Company G of the 1st Connecticut Cavalry before transferring to the Regular Army's 1st United States Infantry. He was promoted to corporal and honorably discharged at Fort Snelling in 1865.

Born March 9, 1843, in South Carolina, Rollins settled in Mankato after the war and worked in the livery and brickmaking trades. In 1913, he attended the Gettysburg reunion as one of only eight surviving veterans from Mankato who had fought in the famous battle.

Rollins married Ellen York in 1865, and later married Ellen M. Shepard in 1869. He died in St. Peter, Minnesota, on September 3, 1919, at the age of 76.

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**Friends of the  
Boy in Blue Civil War Memorial (FBBCWM)  
Headstone Project Acknowledgments**

Research and Veterans Administration headstone applications for the Friends of the Boy in Blue Memorial Headstone Project were completed by Julie Schrader of the FBBCWM, with assistance from Blue Earth County Historical Society, Chuck Owens, Dale VanThuyne, and Gary Carlberg and James Johnson of the SUVCW Col. William Colvill Camp #56.

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For more information: [www.boyinblue.org](http://www.boyinblue.org)  
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