

Boy in Blue Civil War memorial is being reconstructed in Mankato's Lincoln Park

In the summer of 2011 a group of concerned Blue Earth County residents met to discuss the reconstruction of the "Boy in Blue" Civil War Memorial that once stood in Mankato's Lincoln Park. This memorial was taken down in the mid-1920s after it had fallen into disrepair due to storm damage, vandalism and lack of maintenance. The observance of the Sesquicentennial of America's Civil War, 2011-2015, brought the subject to light. This memorial was Blue Earth County's only memorial to the Civil War and it needs to be restored. A committee formed to raise funds with the hope of completing the new memorial before the end of the sesquicentennial observance in 2015.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$165,000. To date \$81,000 has been raised. Ground was broken in 2013 and the memorial base and paver walkway have been installed. "If we can raise \$15,000 by the fall of this year, we could have the pedestal fountain section installed," said Julie Schrader. "This leaves the 'Boy in Blue' statue to be installed in 2015."

The committee has hosted a number of fundraising events such as Civil War Symposiums, patriotic band concerts in Lincoln Park (in



The Boy in Blue Civil War Stories program was presented at the Mapleton Public Library on July 19. Back row L-R: James Olson as Captain William Zuel, Bryce Stenzel as General James H. Baker. Front row L-R: David Clobes as Billings Sibley, Susan Hynes as Mrs. James (Elizabeth) Cannon, Jane Haala as Mrs. Samuel (Caroline) Grannis and Arn Kind as Milton Hanna.

partnership with the Mankato Area Community Band), cemetery walks, t-shirt and medallion sales, dramatic plays, etc. The next event will be Sept. 27, with a Civil War Cemetery Walk in Glenwood Cemetery and a supper at the American Legion Club Post #11 in Mankato. Advance tickets are available. All information is on the website: www.boyinblue.org or on the Facebook page.

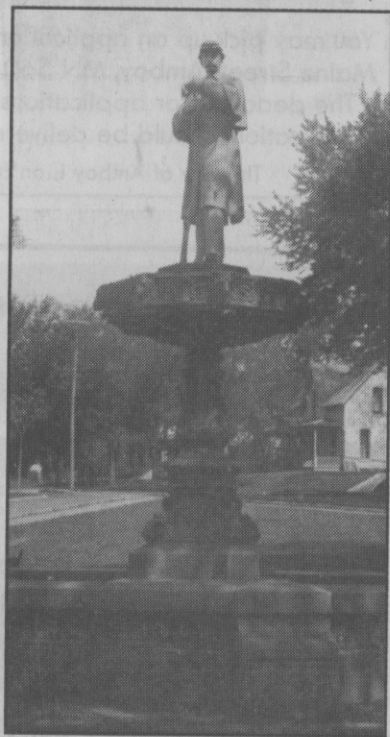
An engraved paver walkway surrounds the new statue and fountain. The sales of engraved pavers will contribute to the construction of the "Boy in Blue." You can order a paver and leave a permanent legacy of your contribution to the re-creation of this historic memorial to Blue Earth County's Civil War veterans during the sesquicentennial observance of America's Civil War (2011-2015).

The Civil War Stories program features living history actors portraying Blue Earth County men and women who fought or had family members who fought in the Civil War. They share the personal stories of the people whose lives were af-

fectured and changed by the war. The Civil War touched the lives of nearly every family during the 1860s. These are our ancestors. By sharing their stories, we remember and keep their stories alive. They also share information about the "Boy in Blue" Memorial Project.

Another way to help is to "Adopt a Veteran." There were 682 Blue Earth County men that enlisted in the Civil War. To honor these brave men, their names will be engraved in granite on the top cap of the stone base of the memorial by stone sculptor Tom Miller.

Questions regarding the "Boy in Blue" memorial can be directed to Julie Schrader at julie@mnheritage.com. A brochure is available by mail, Boy in Blue Memorial Project, P.O. Box 1105, Mankato, MN 56001-1105. Donations can be made online using PayPal, or mailing a check to the above address made out to the Mankato Area Foundation with "Boy in Blue" in the memo line. Donations are tax-deductible. All funds raised go directly to the memorial.



The Boy in Blue Civil War Memorial as it stood in Lincoln Park in Mankato.