

## *Mary's Velvet Rose*

*February 2016*



Most of us are in the throes of winter with snow storms blanketing the a lot of the country. Spring will be here soon and with spring we get to enjoy the annual Association of Lincoln Presenters Conference.

This year we will be staying at the quaint Santa's Lodge in Santa Claus, Indiana, April 14 - 17. We will be visiting the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and other sites.

Please plan to attend the Mary Lincoln special lunch and meeting:

### *Mary Lincoln Lunch and Learn*

Friday, April 15 from Noon – 1:30 pm

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

"Lunch and Learn" - Enjoy a box lunch and special desserts.

Cost is \$10 – (Registration Form)

Inviting all "Marys" (all ladies welcome!) to enjoy a special event at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. We have reserved the beautiful [Nancy Hanks Lincoln Conference Room](#).

Our guest will be Paula Alexander a Park Ranger with the National Park Service. Paula's presentation is titled *Abraham Lincoln's Mothers* - Abraham Lincoln was nurtured, loved and encouraged by the women who influenced his youth. Nancy and Sarah, unknown to them at the time, raised our greatest president of the United States of America.

Paula suggested two books that you might enjoy reading - *Lincoln's Youth* by Louis Warren and *There I Grew Up* by Bill Bartlet. The books focus on Lincoln's life in Indiana and contain information about Sarah's three children. I ordered the books from Amazon and each with shipping was less than \$10 each.

### *New Polo Shirts*

In your 2016 conference registration (and here) you will see an order form for a new ALP Polo Shirt. This is a fund raiser for the 2017 Lexington Conference. The new shirts feature an embroidered emblem of Lincoln. Send your order form to Susan Miller and payment (make check out to ALP) by March 18. Your shirts will be ready by the April Conference.



*Did you know?*

## **Eagle Brand Condensed Milk**

In 1858 a man named Gail Borden developed a process of putting milk in a low vacuum and this lowers the boiling point so that it won't congeal when boiled and the water vapor would be drawn off, condensing it. It would then stay fresh in the can and not spoil.



When the war started, the Army bought the condensed milk in bulk for use in hospitals and private purchases also boosted sales.

Being Patriotic, Mr. Borden named it "Eagle Brand" and featured the national symbol on the label.



Even today, you can go to a grocery store and find this product, under its original name as it was sold during the Civil War.

The cow on the label is named Elsie and that her husband was Elmer: of Elmer's glue. Because Borden's first made Elmer's glue from milk products (that's why kids could eat Elmer's glue and glue paste!) they gave it a masculine name, as men would more likely use glue.

This provides a nice tie-in reminding us that the Civil War is not an ancient history. That's why we do what we do – to preserve the memory and history and pass it on.

## **The Real Reason No One Smiled in Old Photographs**

Over the years, many theories have popped up trying to explain why smiles are so rare in old photographs.

At one point in time, it was largely believed that people didn't smile in old photographs because they were hiding rotten or missing teeth, which was all too common prior to the days of modern dentistry.

It turns out this wasn't really true, since there were plenty of individuals who had great looking



teeth, yet still kept their mouths shut during pictures. Humans can smile without revealing their teeth. Furthermore, bad teeth were so ordinary they weren't necessarily seen as unattractive.



The next idea to become widely accepted was that no one smiled because cameras had incredibly long exposure times – anywhere from 5 minutes to more than 30 minutes. It would have been uncomfortable and perhaps impossible to force a grin and stay still for that amount of time. While that idea does make sense, it doesn't explain why subjects were rarely depicted smiling in old paintings or why people didn't start showing their teeth in the 1840s when exposure times for photos were under a minute.

While these issues might have prevented some from grinning, the major reason for the serious looks was because most people thought smiling made them look ridiculous or stupid. Most individuals simply didn't want to be immortalized for all of history with a goofy grin on their faces. Mark Twain summed it up best when he said, "A photograph is a most important document, and there is nothing more damning to go down in posterity than a silly, foolish smile caught and fixed forever." It was well-established fact that the only people who smiled broadly in life and in art were the poor, the lewd, the drunk, the innocent and the entertained.

Today we smile in photos to show happiness or warmth. As photography advanced and became more common, folks didn't have to choose a single expression to serve as their memorial for the ages, which opened them up to showing a range of expressions in photos. Still, we can only imagine what they'd think of the hundreds of thousands of pictures that are now taken every minute, complete with our foolish smirks and compromising selfies.

<http://knowledgenuts.com>

Dean Dorrell will be sending out the registration forms for the conference very soon. He and his committee have a lot of great events planned.

[Besides the Mary Lincoln Lunch – is anyone interested in carving out a time to make ribbon roses or a head piece with silk flowers or something else?](#)

Best wishes – Susan Miller