

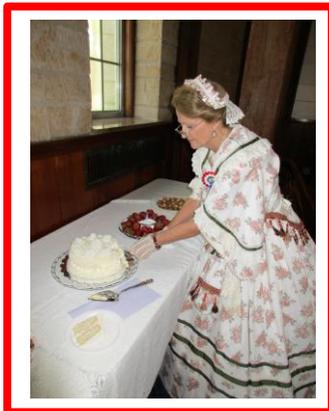
# Mary's Velvet Rose

May 2016

Association of Lincoln Presenters  
Conference \* April 14 – 17, 2016



It was an honor that the Association of Lincoln Presenter's 2016 Conference was included as part of Indiana's Bicentennial Celebration. The 2016 Conference in Lincoln City, Indiana included visits to the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and the Indiana State Park.



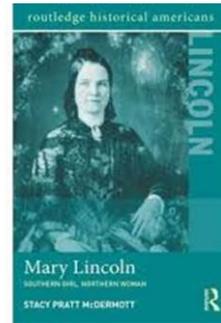
The Mary Lincoln Lunch on Friday, April 15 was held in the Nancy Hanks Lincoln room at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. There were 22 women in attendance. Box lunches were ordered from the Santa Claus restaurant. We enjoyed Mary Lincoln's white almond cake from Sunshine Bakery in Lexington and other two desserts, strawberry bread and gingerbread cookies from Donna McCreary's book – "Lincoln's Table".

The program began with a remembrance that on this Day, April 15, 1865 Mary Lincoln became the first widow of an assassinated president. Many of the members shared activities that they participated in over the past year such as the Lincoln Funeral in Springfield and the Lincoln Funeral Train events.

Our special guest was Paula Alexander, Park Ranger at the National Monument. She spoke about the nurturing qualities of both Nancy and Sarah Lincoln.



New resource available:  
Mary Lincoln, Southern Girl, Northern Woman  
by Dr. Stacy Pratt McDermott, 2015.



Stacy Pratt McDermott is the Assistant Director and Associate Editor of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. McDermott addressed the 17<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Symposium of the Abraham Lincoln Institute at Ford's Theater this past year. In her address she discusses 10 misconceptions of Mary Lincoln.

In her address and in the introduction to the book, she states something profound that we haven't paid a lot of attention to recently.

Mary never called herself Mary Todd Lincoln. Until her sister was born she was Mary Anne Todd and after that she was just Mary Todd. When she arrived in Springfield she was Miss Todd, Mary Todd or Molly. After she married Abraham Lincoln she was Mary Lincoln, Mrs. Lincoln or Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. She took the Lincoln name and was Mary Lincoln until she died. It is historically inaccurate to call her Mary Todd Lincoln.

Please enjoy Dr. McDermott's address at Ford's Theater.

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?406672-105/discussion-life-legacy-mary-lincoln>

## *Annual Mary Lincoln Coterie Events in Springfield*

Mary Lincoln and her friends enjoyed spending time together in Springfield. Sometimes called the Springfield Clique, they gathered to discuss literature, poetry, town gossip and politics. They were young and single and enjoyed the social life that Springfield had to offer them. Mary and her friends nicknamed their group "The Coterie" – a group of close friends with a common unifying interest. Today the Mary Lincoln Coterie is made up of good friends with a common interest in the former First Lady.

### ***2016 Events include:***

Friday, July 15 11 am \* Lunch at Edward's Place – Cost \$15 per person. Reservations required. Speaker to be announced.

Friday, July 15, 7 pm \* Strawberry Dessert Party at the Ramada North. Author and Coterie member CJ King will present a 1<sup>st</sup> person program as Mary Harlan Lincoln

Saturday, July 16, 10 am \* Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery. Speaker Darin I. Jolliffe-Haas

Saturday, July 16, Noon \* 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Mary Lincoln's Coterie Luncheon. Luncheon will be at Maldaner's in downtown Springfield. The cost is \$21 per person. Reservations required. Speaker Steve Ingram – Civil War Photography, with emphasis on photos of Mary Lincoln.

Please find the reservation forms for this year's upcoming event on the Mary Lincoln Coterie website:

<https://marylincolncoterie.com/about/upcoming-events/>

<https://www.facebook.com/marylincolncoterie/>

## *Cockades*

Thank you to those who ordered the Lincoln Cockades. We have enough to place the order with the vendor but I am waiting on some late arrivals. If you would like a cockade please email me and let me know by Friday, May 6.

**Cockade, n. from the French cocarde. An ornament, such as a rosette or knot of ribbon, usually worn as a badge of identification.**

People have used ribbon rosettes for centuries to tell their stories. Colors, shapes, and emblems were used to show patriotism, support the troops, stand for a cause, show rank or declare your loyalty.

Early on, the colors of the cockade were the colors of the house, dynasty or national flag under which you served. As time went on, cockades were also used to support a cause or party. Emblems such as military buttons, ribbon braid, or national symbols were often added to the rosette to create a cockade full of political fervor. Cockades were the political lapel pins of yesteryear.

For more history and photos about Civil War Cockades, click this link. <http://creativecockades.blogspot.com/p/american-cockades.html>

## *Mary Lincoln members of A L D*

Send me email and pictures of events that you have participated in this summer. A fall newsletter with updates on the conference will be sent in September.

Have a great summer!

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