

# Mary's Velvet Rose

## June 2022

### ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS 2022 CONFERENCE IN LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS



The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (after 2020 and 2021 were canceled due to Covid) took place in Leavenworth, Kansas under the able direction of Murray Cox.

Thursday evening, the event started at the River Front Community Center with a first person presentation of John Brown.

Friday morning we took a bus trip to Fort Leavenworth for a tour of the base and museum. The group returned to the River Front Community Center for lunch and two speakers – a history of Fort Leavenworth and a first person Buffalo soldier.



In the afternoon we toured two Lincoln collections at a university and a bank.

The Mary Lincolns went back to the hotel for a tea and guest speaker, Mary Ann Brown. She gave a very interesting program about women's suffrage in Kansas.



Joan Howard, Pam Voehl, Kathleen Jensen, Mary Ann Brown (speaker), Susan Miller, Teena Baldrige, Sue Wright, Mary Elliott and Diane Broski

Friday evening the keynote speaker was Carol Ayers who discussed Lincoln in Kansas and the importance of Kansas being admitted to the union as a free state. She also gave away signed copies of her book, *Lincoln and Kansas, Partnership for Freedom*. Joe Woodard reprised Lincoln's speech in Leavenworth and had his audience spell bound with his performance of Lincoln.

On Saturday we traveled to Leocompton, Kansas. We saw an amazing play about the violence and killing in Kansas before the Civil War. Kevin Griffen is a retired military and gave two passionate speeches about the free / slave state admission to the union.



The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting was held Saturday evening. Two locations for the ALP Conference in 2024 were presented. Teena Baldrige presented Dayton, Ohio and Kevin Wood presented for Kalamazoo, Michigan. We are going to Dayton!

Elections were held for the board of directors. Joan Howard and Joe Woodard are back on the board again. The officers that were elected are: John Cooper, President, Kevin Wood, First Vice President, Joe Woodard, Second Vice President, Sue Wright, Secretary and Murray Cox, Treasurer.

I was very surprised and grateful to be presented the ALP Award of Excellence. So, stunned was I that I don't know what I said in the way of thanks when I received the award. If I could think on my feet I would have said that I was only doing the job of the Mary Lincoln Chair. I hope ladies who attend a each conference, have a special activity whether a lunch, a tea or an activity.

Also, Sue made reference to my support of Lincoln Days in Hodgenville. This small town festival is so very grateful of the Association's support. Lincoln Days has "Lincoln Look A Like" contests, a parade, and breakfast and lunch for ALP members. Always the first weekend in October, come if able.



## SPRINGFIELD 2023

Next April we are going to Springfield, Illinois. In Springfield we cannot wear our costumes to the Lincoln Home Place or the cemetery. We shall accept this fact and move on. Soon you will receive a survey from the Board of Directors about attending ALP conferences. The attendance at the conferences has declined, first due to COVID and second due to old age. What interests you at conferences?

For the Springfield conference in 2020, the Marys were to have a luncheon at the Edward's House and a guest speaker. But primarily because of the pandemic, the Edward's Place must now charge a \$500 rental fee for this event, making this option too expensive for conference attendees. At this point the planning of this event is going forward.