

Mary's Velvet Rose  
February, 2014  
ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



**by Sharon Wood, MTL Chair**

My Dear Friends,

Our MTL luncheons at the ALP Convention have been evolving over the years and we've enjoyed spending some time together in different locales, with a variety of menus created especially for us. The folks in Decatur in 2012 and Columbus in 2013 treated us to lovely meals, including some recipes from Donna McCreary's "Lincoln's Table." Many thanks to Vicki Woodard (2012) and Barbara Brugler (2013) for their efforts on our behalf.

In Decatur, we enjoyed an informative and enjoyable talk, "How Children Lived in Lincoln's Time," by Nancy Togerson. She brought with her a wonderful display of clothing, toys, and other household items from the period and we wish there had been more time allowed for her presentation.

Time constraints were the only problem with our luncheons, and I suspect that would be the case even if we'd had another hour to spend together. We do enjoy socializing over our meal! The business meeting sometimes lasts longer than anticipated when members take an active part in the discussions, as we all should feel comfortable doing. Program speakers need a suitable amount of time to cover their topic.

In Columbus, we didn't have a program in the luncheon room, which turned out to be a good decision. We needed to travel to the Ohio State History Museum, where some of our members were scheduled to present brief samples of their living history presentations. Those were most enjoyable and a wonderful way for us to learn from each other.

One item of business we discussed in 2012 was trying to draw all women who attend ALP Conventions to formally become members of the ALP. Whether we portray Mary Lincoln ourselves or support our Abraham Lincoln partner in his portrayal behind-the-scenes, we all have much to contribute to our group. Membership applications can be downloaded from the ALP website at [http://www.lincolnpresenters.net/membership\\_form.html](http://www.lincolnpresenters.net/membership_form.html) and mailed to Membership Chair, Robert Brugler, 886 Middlebury Dr. N., Worthington, OH 43085. We look forward to adding new MTL members to the ALP member roster!

At the April 2013 luncheon, I made a suggestion that our ALP/MTL committee provide a commemorative wreath for the ceremony sponsored by Mary Lincoln's Coterie each July on the anniversary of Mary's death. With the approval of the ALP Board, I sent emails to our members asking anyone who wished to do so to send a contribution to me. I received more than enough to purchase a lovely wreath from a florist in Donna McCreary's town of Charlestown, IN. She picked it up for us and drove it to the event at the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, IL, where it was placed with the other floral pieces.

Over the years, participating organizations have been the Coterie, the Mary Todd Lincoln House, the Mary Todd Lincoln Tent of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Illinois State DUVCW, and the Danville Civil War Roundtable. It is fitting and proper that the ALP is now represented.

Because the wreath was made with artificial flowers, it will last for several years. Donna has arranged for it to be stored between ceremonies and brought to Springfield each year. We thank Sue Wright, Mary Elliott, Nancy Peck, Caroline Krandell, and Sharon Wood for their contributions, which totaled more than the florist charged us. The donors voted to divide the remaining amount between the ALP & the Coterie.

As we head into our next conference, let's be thinking of topics we might want to talk about when we get together in Natchez. It's always wonderful to visit with everyone who is able to attend our yearly gatherings and we send out our best wishes to those who are unable to be with us every time.