

Mary's Velvet Rose  
March, 2009  
ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



It's finally here -- the Lincoln Bicentennial Year that we've been anticipating. And what an exciting year it is! My own President Lincoln has experienced what it must have been like for Abe himself when he visited New England in February/March 1860. We calculate that Abe gave 12 speeches in 12 days. In a letter to Mary, he protested that "had he foreseen the difficulty" of making so many speeches, he might not have come east at all.

In 2009, "Abe" Wood gave 21 speeches in 30 days. One interesting difference is that most of Steve's stops (12 in 21 days) were in Massachusetts, while Abe didn't speak there at all in 1860, figuring that the state was already committed to backing Seward as the Republican Party's presidential candidate.

I participated as Mary Lincoln for some of those programs and have been pleased with the responses from our audiences. We find that most of the questions following our joint programs are about Mary. Comments are often made that it is gratifying to learn more about Mary Lincoln than the commonly held stereotypes. We are pleased to have our work appreciated and to raise awareness of the important role Mary played in Abraham's life.

When we meet in Washington, I would like to invite other Mary Lincoln presenters to share the stories of their experiences while in Mary's persona during this special year. Those of you who will not be able to be with us may send your stories to me and I will share them at our MTL meeting.

I am pleased to be planning to attend a very special event in honor of Mary Lincoln to be held in Springfield, Ill., on July 14, 15 and 16. The highlight will be a memorial service with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Lincoln Tomb to commemorate Mary's death on July 16, 1882. Other activities include a luncheon with guest speaker Catherine Clinton, author of "Mrs. Lincoln: A Life," just released this year; a performance by Donna McCreary and Dean Dorrell, titled "Lincoln Letters"; and a lecture, "Mary's Legacy According to Robert," by Donna McCreary. A dedicated group of ladies, united as Mary Lincoln's Coterie, have organized several annual events at Mary's tomb and are pleased to report that attendance has been steadily growing each year. More information, including group discount motel rates, is available at <http://www.marylincolncoterie.com> or by contacting Donna McCreary at [mtlincoln@hotmail.com](mailto:mtlincoln@hotmail.com) or 812-256-2370.

Oh, by the way. . . I'm not going to Springfield alone. My Abe is coming along. Although the events focus on Mary Lincoln, Abrahams are welcome to accompany their ladies, take in the planned activities (all are free and open to the public, except for the luncheon, which costs \$20) or to follow their own pursuits.

Sharon Wood, MTL Committee Chair  
43 Centennial Street, Claremont, NH 03743  
nh\_lincoln@pobox.com (Please note the \_ between nh and lincoln)