

Mary's Velvet Rose

December 2025

ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



2026 ALP Conference Schedule – April 9 – 12.
Bardstown, Kentucky

Larry and Mary Elliott have planned an excellent conference schedule.

Thursday April 9, 2026

Dinner on your own (Attendees will be provided with a list of local restaurants)

Welcome Reception from Bardstown Mayor (Meet at the Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Bardstown.

There will be a Lincoln-Kentucky Trivia Game and details of events/times the next three days (Presented by Host Larry Elliott). SILENT AUCTION OPEN

Friday April 10, 2026

Bardstown Civil War Museum and speaker

My Old Kentucky Home State Park Tour

Lunch at Old Talbott Tavern with Speakers for Both Ladies and Gentlemen (2 Separate Rooms)

Tour the Oscar Getz Whiskey History Museum with Speaker

Social Gathering (My Old Kentucky Home Banquet Room) SILENT AUCTION OPEN

Dinner (My Old Kentucky Home Banquet Room)

Entertainment (5-7 minute portrayals by seven different Lincolns and 1 (or two) Mary Todd Lincolns, and a US Grant (My Old Kentucky Home Banquet Room).

Saturday April 11, 2026

Tour Lincoln Birthplace in Hodgenville, KY

Tour Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville, KY

Speaker Iris Larue – “Ladies in Lincoln’s Life” in the Lincoln Community Room

Tour the Knob Creek Home

Lunch at Kentucky Railway Museum (Lunch on the train with speaker)

Relax at the beautiful hotel or free time on your own (shopping and other nearby attractions)

ALP Meeting with Catered Dinner at the Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Bardstown

Sunday April 12, 2026

Worship Service (non-denominational) @ Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Bardstown

Registration for the conference will start very soon!

Mary Lincoln Chair

After much reflection, I am formally tendering my resignation as the Mary Lincoln chair of the ALP Board of Directors, effective April 12, 2026. Having had the privilege of serving in this role for the past ten years, I believe the time has come to pass the torch to new leadership that will continue guiding ALP into its next chapter.

Serving alongside such dedicated colleagues has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated milestones, and advanced ALP's mission in ways that have strengthened both our organization and the communities we serve. I am deeply proud of what we have accomplished during my tenure.

Duties would include planning and carrying out a Mary Lincoln get together at the annual conference whether it is a tea, lunch or speaker. The ML Chair also conducts a short business meeting, reports on Mary Lincoln activities at the annual meeting and attends the annual board meeting. The Mary Lincoln chair also contributes to the ALP newsletter – Lincarnations. Please let me know if you would consider being nominated for the Mary Lincoln chairman this coming April. Very sincerely, Susan

“Mary” Christmas to YOU! ~ A German Tradition

Christmas trees have been around in some form or another for centuries. But the modern version of the Christmas tree and Christmas decorations apparently originated in the area of the German states. People would go to the huge fir forests in Germany and cut off the tops of the trees for their Christmas celebrations. Hessian soldiers in the Revolutionary War and nineteenth century German settlers in America brought this tradition with them.

Especially in areas like Texas and Pennsylvania, German immigrants established traditions of a fir tree to be decorated for Christmas. They became so popular that they began to be sold commercially in the 1850s. President Franklin Pierce is credited with bringing the first Christmas tree to the White House in 1856. Concerns about over-harvesting in both America and Germany resulted in the invention of artificial trees such as feather trees, and in tree farms (first established in 1901).



Queen Victoria's Tree 1848



German engraving of family Christmas 1869

Decorating the Tree

There is a sweet little story in an 1860 edition of Godey's Lady's Book entitled "[The Christmas Tree.](#)" Long before Hallmark movies, ladies' magazines of the day carried heart-warming, feel-good stories about Christmas, and this tale is no exception. However, the fascinating part was the description of the family decorating their tree.

"The square of green baize [fabric] being tacked down, a large stone jar was placed in the middle of it, and in this the tree stood nobly erect. Damp sand was put round the stem till the large green tree stood firmly in its place. A flounce of green chintz round the jar concealed its stony ugliness, and over the top, round the tree, was a soft cushion of moss. It was a large evergreen, reaching almost to the high ceiling, for all the family presents were to be placed upon it.

"This finished, the process of dressing commenced. From a basket in the corner, Marion drew long strings of bright red holly-berries, threaded like beads upon fine cord. These were festooned in graceful garlands from the boughs of the tree, and while Marion was thus employed, Grace and the Doctor arranged the tiny tapers. This was a delicate task. Long pieces of fine wire were passed through the taper at the bottom, and these clasped over the stem of each branch, and twisted together underneath. Great care was taken that there should be a clear space above each wick, that nothing might catch fire.

"Strings of bright berries, small bouquets of paper flowers, strings of beads, tiny flags of gay ribbons, stars and shields of gilt paper, lace bags filled with colored candies, **knots of bright ribbons**, all homemade by Marion's and Grace's skilful fingers, made a brilliant show at a very trifling cost, the basket seeming possessed of unheard-of capacities, to judge from the multitude and variety of articles the sisters drew from it."

From other period descriptions of decorations, I suspect the "knots of bright ribbons" was another way of saying ribbon rosettes.

Christmas Tree Harper's Weekly 1870



1876 Christmas Tree

