

Velvet Rose ~ May 2024

ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



Association of Lincoln Presenters Conference– April 26-28, 2024

The 2024 Association of Lincoln Presenters Conference was held in Dayton, Ohio. Teena Baldrige, the host, did an outstanding job of organizing and overseeing the conference. Highlights included a service project for the Veterans at the VA hospital that exceeded all expectations, and 6 amazing and informative speakers who were some of the best the Association has heard.

We had a meet and greet with Mike Major, the sculpture of both of Dayton's Lincoln statues. ALP members are pictured around the Lincoln statue that will be installed at the Dayton Veterans Association later this year.

Men and women enjoyed separate lunches with speakers at the Dayton Woman's Club. There was buffet dinner Saturday evening and afterwards ALP members and members of the community enjoyed The Henry "Box" Brown Story, a presentation about a slave who mailed himself to the north to freedom.

Kevin Wood delivered an inspiring message on Sunday morning.



Teena and Jeff Baldrige

Teena raised \$4,000 in donations for the Dayton Conference. The silent auction brought in more than \$1,300, while the patches and consignment sale made another \$400.

The 2024 Conference was wonderful with time to connect with old friends and new friends.

Mary Lincoln Activities

The Mary Lincoln luncheon was held at the Dayton Woman's Club on Saturday. Margaret Kruckemeyer spoke about the Dayton Veterans Administration Campus and our member, MaryAnne Mathews, treated the ladies with a hammered dulcimer concert.



Holly Ray taught a Victorian Earring Class on Saturday afternoon. We painted acorns black, highlighted them with gold, and then drilled a hole in them. Wire was used to attach the acorn to an earring hook.

Everyone came away with a lovely pair of Victorian earrings. Thanks to Holly for "volunteering" to lead this fun workshop.



Conference Pictures

Once again Tom Davison was our "official" conference photographer. He started taking photos on Thursday evening and didn't stop until the last minute of the conference. Thank you Tom! You can find his images at:

[Association of Lincoln Presenters Conference, Dayton, April 27-28th, 2024 - tgdavison-photography \(davisonimages.com\)](http://Association of Lincoln Presenters Conference, Dayton, April 27-28th, 2024 - tgdavison-photography (davisonimages.com))

There is a green tab over to the right where you can purchase photos.

Member News

A warm welcome to **Julie Cope-McMahan**, wife of Whit McMahan! After attending a few conferences and Lincoln Days in Hodgenville, she decided to officially join as a lifetime member!

New Member – Welcome!! – **Loretta Williams** portrays 19th century Illinois union organizer, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones. Thanks to Laura Keyes who recruited Loretta. Mary "Mother" Jones has joined ALP as a lifetime member. We look forward to seeing her at the 2025 Conference. Her email is artist.loretta@gmail.com

Hair Styles of the 1860s

We who are members of the Association of Lincoln Presenters try to represent Mary Lincoln in dress and accessories. One detail that we can strive to emulate is the hairstyle of the women in the mid-19th century.

Women's hairstyles in the 1860s were characterized by several distinct features that reflected the fashion and social norms of the time. Here's a detailed description:

General Characteristics

- **Center Parting:** Most hairstyles featured a center part, which was a hallmark of the period.
- **Smooth and Sleek:** Hair was often smoothed down with oils and pomades to achieve a sleek look.
- **Low Buns:** Hair was commonly gathered at the nape of the neck into a low bun or chignon. These buns could be plain or more elaborately styled.



Specific Styles

- **Snoods and Hairnets:** Decorative snoods (a type of hairnet) were popular. These could be made of silk, crochet, or netting and often featured ribbons, beads, or other embellishments.
- **Braids and Plaits:** Braiding was a common technique. Hair might be braided and then wound around the head or incorporated into the bun.
- **Rolls and Puffs:** Hair was sometimes rolled or puffed at the sides of the head. These rolls added volume and framed the face attractively.
- **Bandeaus and Ribbons:** Hair accessories like bandeaus (bands) and ribbons were used to secure hair and add decorative elements.



Accessories and Adornments

- **Flowers:** Both artificial and real flowers were used to adorn hairstyles, especially for formal occasions.
- **Combs and Pins:** Decorative combs and hairpins made of tortoiseshell, ivory, or metal were popular.
- **Day Caps:** Simple or elaborate day caps were worn usually in the home.
- **Hats, Bonnets and Veils:** For outdoor wear, women often wore bonnets or veils that complemented their hairstyles and dresses.

Influence of Fashion and Social Norms

- **Victorian Modesty:** Hairstyles were designed to be modest and feminine, in line with Victorian ideals of womanhood.
- **Practicality:** Many styles were practical for managing long hair and keeping it neat throughout the day.

Examples of Famous Hairstyles

- **Queen Victoria:** Her style influenced many, with simple, center-parted hair often pulled back into a bun.
- **American Civil War Era:** Women like Mary Lincoln showcased elaborate styles with curls and adorned buns for special occasions.

These hairstyles reflect the elegance and propriety valued during the 1860s, offering a glimpse into the everyday and special event looks of women from that era.

Sue and Sharon in bonnets!



Group photo 2017



Laura, Diane and Susan – Ball gown ready



Mary and Susan



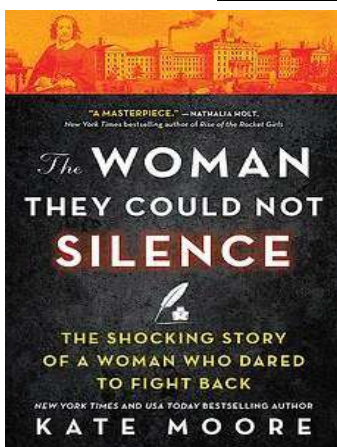
"The Woman They Could Not Silence" by Laura Keyes

As Mary Lincoln presenters, we are all aware of the fact that in 1875, she was found guilty of being insane in a court of law, and institutionalized. (The fact that she was found "restored to reason" in 1876 is often overlooked.) However, so many folks haven't questioned why Mary Lincoln had to be put through a legal trial for what is commonly considered a medical issue. Have you questioned this? Have you asked "Why?" when researching this part of Mary's history while preparing for your presentation?

The reason why Mary Lincoln had to be tried in a court of law in 1875, to prove or disprove her mental reason, was solely a result of the work of Elizabeth Parsons Ware Packard, who herself was placed in a mental institution in Jacksonville, IL, in 1860. The difference between these two cases was that in 1860 the law, passed 15 February 1851, in the state of Illinois stated "Married women and infants, who, in the judgment of the medical superintendent [meaning the Superintendent of the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane] are evidently insane or distracted, may be entered or detained in the hospital on the request of the husband of the woman or the guardian of the infant, without the evidence of insanity required in other cases." Read that through again. The law allowed husbands to place their wives in the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane *without evidence of insanity*. Thanks to Mrs. Packard's hard work, in 1864 Illinois passed a law requiring evidence and witnesses to be brought into a court of law, and for the wife to be allowed to hire people in her defense if she had been accused of insanity.



While the Civil War was building and exploding around America, Elizabeth P. W. Packard was fighting for her freedom in the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane in Jacksonville, IL. There have been only a handful of books written about Elizabeth P. W. Packard, but the most recent one was on the bestseller list for weeks: The Woman They Could Not Silence by Kate Moore.



(This is also available as an audiobook, which I also recommend!) I strongly encourage each of you to read more about Elizabeth P. W. Packard and compare and contrast her struggle with Mary Lincoln's, who was institutionalized 15 years after Mrs. Packard.

If there is any interest in attending one of my first-person portrayals of Elizabeth P. W. Packard, there is a virtual option on Wednesday, 12 June at 7pm Central, hosted by the Bloomington Public Library (Bloomington, IL). See bloomingtonlibrary.org for more information, or my Facebook page:

[Facebook.com/HistoricVoices](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricVoices) **

For more information about the insanity trial of Mary Lincoln check out these website links from the Mary Todd Lincoln House in Lexington, Kentucky and Illinois State Supreme Court Historic Preservation Committee.

[Widowhood & Insanity Trial — Mary Todd Lincoln House \(mtlhouse.org\)](http://mtlhouse.org)

[History on Trial Details \(illinoiscourthistory.org\)](http://illinoiscourthistory.org)

**** Submissions for the Velvet Rose Newsletter are gladly accepted.**

Up Coming Events

Lincoln Days – Oct 5-6

“Hat’s Off”, the theme of Lincoln Days this year, reflects Hodgenville’s earnest gratitude for the many individuals, organizations, sponsors, vendors, and participants who contribute to the success of the annual festival.

Please come to Lincoln Days if you are able, as they salute the many who make their festival so memorable and special!

The “Lincoln Look-A-Like” contests are scheduled for Saturday, October 5 around 12 pm. Come in costume, prepare a 3 minute presentation, and walk away with some cash! Hope to see you all there.



Upcoming Association of Lincoln Presenters Conferences:

2025 Conference – Kalamazoo, Michigan – April 24 -27, Kevin Wood, host

2026 Conference – Bardstown, Kentucky – Date to be announced, Larry Elliott, host

Association of Lincoln Presenters Patches

Both patches are still available for \$4 each. Email Susan Miller with the number of patches you are requesting. (susanviolamiller@gmail.com)

