

Mary's Velvet Rose

May 2026

ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



The **2026 Association of Lincoln Presenters Conference** held April 9–12 in Bardstown, Kentucky, brought members together in the heart of Lincoln’s early landscape for four days of history, fellowship, and immersive exploration. Attendees traced Lincoln’s Kentucky roots through visits to Hodgenville, Knob Creek, and Bardstown’s rich Civil War sites, while enjoying signature experiences like lunch at the Old Talbott Tavern, a scenic ride on the Kentucky Railway Museum train, and programs that highlight the region’s cultural and historical depth. With guest speakers, shared meals, and time to connect as a community, the conference blended scholarship, storytelling, and warm camaraderie—an annual celebration of Lincoln’s legacy and the presenters who keep his memory alive.

Larry and Mary Elliott deserve heartfelt thanks for planning and overseeing an excellent conference—one marked by smooth coordination, thoughtful programming, and **genuine hospitality**. Larry’s steady leadership shaped an event that felt both meaningful and welcoming, giving presenters and guests alike a rich experience in Bardstown.

ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Teena Baldrige received the ALP Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding dedication to the Association of Lincoln Presenters and her long, faithful service to the Lincoln Society of Dayton. Her leadership, and generous mentorship have strengthened both organizations and enriched the wider community of Lincoln interpreters.

Congratulations Teena!!



BUFFALO, NEW YORK CONFERENCE

Next April 22-25, 2027 the Association will hold the annual Conference in Buffalo, New York. Member Glenn Murray is the host.

The conference will highlight not only President Lincoln's life but also Buffalo's Underground Railroad history, the Erie Canal, and the region's contributions to the Union cause, including figures such as General Bidwell, General Chapin, Colonel Corcoran, and Seneca leader Ely Parker. Participants will also travel to Westfield to commemorate Lincoln's famous meeting with young Grace Bedell, followed by an evening program in Buffalo featuring historical presentations and entertainment. The event promises education, fellowship, and a deep appreciation of the local stories that shaped Lincoln's America.

The many local attractions include Niagara Falls (20 minutes from the hotel.)



WHO IS THIS WOMAN AND WHY IS SHE SO IMPORTANT?



Sarah Josepha Hale was a pioneering American editor and writer best known for shaping *Godey's Lady's Book* into the most influential women's magazine of the pre-Civil War era. As its longtime editor, she championed women's education, promoted original American writing, and helped define 19th-century ideals of womanhood.

Hale was also a prolific author—penning works from *Northwood* to the beloved nursery rhyme “*Mary Had a Little Lamb*”—and she famously campaigned for the establishment of a national Thanksgiving holiday.

Mary Lincoln Lunch

The 1860s accessories fashion show at the Mary Lincoln Luncheon offered a lively, elegant glimpse into the finishing touches that defined a lady's appearance in Mary's era. Bonnets, gloves, reticules, fans, and jewelry were showcased with charm and historical insight, illustrating how each piece expressed status, personality, and occasion. *Godey's Lady's Book* is an invaluable resource for 1860 period impressions. The presentation blended education and entertainment, giving guests a vivid sense of the beauty and meaning behind the accessories Mary herself would have known. Thanks to Joan Howard and Sue Wright for partnering with me to present a great presentation!

MARY LINCOLN CHAIR

The Mary members of the Association of Lincoln Presenters chose not to accept my resignation as Mary Lincoln Chair, encouraging me instead to continue in the role. Their support and trust mean a great deal, and I've agreed to serve a few more years.

Very Sincerely Yours, Susan Miller.

The Mary Lincolns at the Birthplace

Back row – left to right

Teena Baldrige, Ann Bruehler, Joan Howard, Dianne Broski, Marian King,
Sue Wright

Front row – left to right

Susan Miller, JoAnn Peterson, Mary Elliott, Laura Schlesinger, Ali Ault

