When they were living in Illinois, the Lincolns attended strawberry parties in the early summer. Today you can plan a strawberry party year-round.

Strawberry parties in Springfield featured berries and homemade ice cream. If you like to try recipes, consider these, based on ideas in Todd family cookbooks.

**Strawberry Jelly Sandwich**
Spread strawberry jam on a slice of bread or toast and top with sliced fresh strawberries. Spread cream cheese on another slice and place it cheese-side down on the strawberry slice.

**Strawberry Kringles**
Spread strawberry jam on a thin sugar or butter cookie and top with a fresh strawberry slice.

**Strawberries and Cream**
Cut strawberries into quarters and mix with a little sugar in a bowl. When the berries get juicy, use to top ice cream or vanilla pudding. For extra strawberry flavor, melt jam in the microwave and drizzle it on top!
What's a party without entertainment? Try these old-fashioned games with a strawberry twist.

**Strawberry Compliments**
Write the word STRAWBERRY so all the players can see it. The first player says, “I like strawberries because they are sweet.” The second player repeats the sentence and adds a word that begins with T. For example, “I like strawberries because they are sweet and tender.” The third player adds a word that begins with R, and so on.

**Pass the Strawberry**
All player but one sit in a circle. The last player sits in the middle and closes his or her eyes for 10 seconds, so the other players can start passing a strawberry behind their backs. The object of the game is to pass the strawberry around the circle before the player in the middle can guess who has it. To avoid a mess, use a red button, checker, or ball for the strawberry!

Photographer Matthew Brady took a picture of Mrs. Lincoln in this black dress decorated with purple strawberries and green leaves. Maybe she wore it to a strawberry party!