

THE SEWARD FAMILY'S CIVIL WAR

History 278/478 ★ Fall 2014 ★ T/R 9:40-10:55 ★ RR 456 & Digital Humanities Center



Course Description:

A hands-on introduction to the history of the family, gender, and the antebellum and Civil War eras, to historical editing, and to digital textual encoding, using the [Papers of William Henry Seward](#) (1801-1872), Governor of New York, US Senator, and Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. The Rush Rhees Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation Department holds the collection, which contains Seward's public and private correspondence, and that of family members, including his wife and children, as well as their extended family, neighbors, friends, and far-flung correspondents. The course will include reading on the Civil War era and the family, and instruction on documentary editing, transcription, and annotating historical manuscripts. This course is a pre-requisite for HIS 275/475 (The Seward Family in Peace and War), paid internships working on the Seward editorial project and at the Seward House Museum in Auburn, and a requirement for a graduate student research field in historical editing or the history of the family.

It takes a village:

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Evaluation:

- 25% attendance, preparation, and participation in discussions of assigned reading. [2% of course grade deducted for each absence.] 4 unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.
- 50% productivity and accuracy in transcriptions and annotations of manuscripts. Students are responsible for transcribing and annotating approximately 25-30 pages of manuscript letters on the schedule included in the syllabus, and for the TEI markup of those letters. The final revisions of all transcriptions and annotations must be submitted not later than before class on December 2.
- 25% a 10-12 page capstone paper based on letter transcriptions. The capstone paper will be based on a research project within the Seward Papers that the student and Professor Slaughter agree upon during the second week of the semester. Each student must have a one-page project proposal before class on October 7, which we are glad to help you with; the proposal may be a transcription and annotation project; a finding aid for one part of the collection; or a research paper on the relationship between two or more members of the family. The capstone project is due on December 16.



Books:

The required reading for the course includes selections from these books [*available for purchase in bookstore]:

**Theory of the Spencerian System of Practical Penmanship in Nine Easy Lessons.* Mott Media, 1985.

*Hensher, Philip. *Missing Ink: The Lost Art of Handwriting.* New York, 2012.

*Masur, Louis. *The Civil War: A Concise History.* New York, 2011.

Kline, Mary-Jo and Susan Holbrook Perdue. *A Guide to Documentary Editing.* 3d ed. Charlottesville, 2008, "Introduction."

[Seward, Frederick W. *Reminiscences of a War-Time Statesman and Diplomat.* NY, 1916, pages 1-270.](#)

Goodwin, Doris Kearns. *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln.* New York: 2005.

Stahr, Walter. *Seward: Lincoln's Indispensable Man.* New York, 2012.

Beecher, Catharine. *A Treatise on Domestic Economy.* Boston, 1841.

Child, Lydia Maria. *The American Frugal Housewife.* 22d ed. NY, 1838.

Hemphill, C. Dallett. *Siblings: Brothers and Sisters in American History.* New York, 2011.

Flanders, Judith. *The Victorian House: Domestic Life from Childbirth to Deathbed.* London, 2003.

Owensbey, Betty. *Alias "Paine": Lewis Thornton Powell, The Mystery Man of the Lincoln Conspiracy,* Jefferson, 1993.





Schedule:

Tuesday, September 2 (RR 456): Introduction.

Thursday, September 4 (Seward Room, Rare Books and Special Collections Department, 2d floor of Rush Rhees Library). Lori Birrell.

**** Bring your photo ID to class. Do not bring food or drinks to RBSC. Jackets, bags and purses will be stored in a closet during class. Pencils and laptops only. ****

Joan Lynn Schild, "[Seward's Gold Snuffbox](#)." *University of Rochester Library Bulletin* 14 (1959).

Introduction to transcription: you try it for the first time in class.

Read before class and be prepared to discuss: "Transcription Guidelines" and "Annotation Guidelines" (seward.lib.rochester.edu).

Tuesday, September 9 (RR 456): Discussion of assigned reading.

Read *Theory of the Spencerian System of Practical Penmanship in Nine Easy Lessons*, pp. 1-28.

Maygene Daniels, "[The Ingenious Pen: American Writing Implements from the Eighteenth Century to the Twentieth.](#)" *The American Archivist* 43 (1980): 312-24.

Margaret Butterfield, "[The William Henry Seward Papers.](#)" *University of Rochester Library Bulletin*, 7 (1951).

Dexter Perkins, "[William Henry Seward.](#)" *University of Rochester Library Bulletin* 7 (1951).

Thursday, September 11 (RR 456):

Discuss Kline and Perdue, *Guide*, "Introduction."
Hensher, *The Missing Ink*, pp. 5-17, 45-78

Tuesday, September 16 (DHC):

Transcription: We work on it together.

Thursday, September 18 (RR 456):

*** Due at start of class: Two fully transcribed and annotated letters.***

Hensher, *The Missing Ink*, pp. 113-116, 135-227.

Tuesday, September 23 (DHC): TEI with Mike Read.

Intro to Digital Scholarly Editing & Digital Humanities Projects: Nora Dimmock and Josh Romphf. Visit before class: [William Blake](#) // [Joseph Smith](#)
Joanna Drucker, "[Text Encoding: Mark-up and TEI](#)"

Thursday, September 25 (RR 456):

Glyndon G. Van Deusen, "[The Story of the Seward Papers \(Part I\).](#)" *University of Rochester Library Bulletin* 31 (1978).

John R. Russell, "[The Story of the Seward Papers \(Part II\).](#)" *University of Rochester Library Bulletin* 31 (1978).

Flanders, "The Drawing Room," pp. 131-176; "The Dining Room," pp. 215-253.

Tuesday, September 30 (DHC): Work on Transcriptions

Masur, *Civil War*, "The Origins of the War," pp. 1-20.

Thursday, October 2 (RR 456):

Hemphill, *Siblings*, "Introduction," pp. 3-14; "Northern Homes in Antebellum Life and Letters," pp. 129-152; "The Reign of Sisters Begins," pp. 153-185; "Epilogue: To the Back-Seat Wars," 213-222.

Ruth Van Deusen, "[Mrs. Seward in Washington](#)." *University of Rochester Library Bulletin* 19 (1964).

Tuesday, October 7 (DHC): Work on Transcriptions

Proposal for capstone project due (as email attachment) before class.

Masur, *Civil War*, "1861," pp. 21-30.

Thursday, October 9 (RR 456):

*** Due at start of class: Two transcribed and annotated letters & revisions of letters from September 18***

Seward, *Reminiscences*, pp. 134-192

Kearns-Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*, pp. 296-346

Tuesday, October 14: ***FALL BREAK***



Thursday, October 16 (RR 456)

Kearns-Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*, pp. 347-423.

Patricia C. Johnson, "[I Could Not be Well or Happy at Home . . . When Called to the Councils of My Country](#)": Politics and the Seward Family." *University of Rochester Library Bulletin* 31 (1978).

Tuesday, October 21 (DHC): Work on transcriptions together

Masur, *Civil War*, "1862" & "1863," pp. 31-61.

Thursday, October 23 (RR 456)

*** Due at start of class: Two transcribed and annotated letters & revisions of letters from October 9***

Stahr, *Seward*, "Remove Him!: 1862," pp. 322-360
Seward, *Reminiscences*, 193-242

Tuesday, October 28 (RR 456):

Masur, *Civil War*, "1864" & "1865," pp. 62-94.
Seward, *Reminiscences*, pp. 242-262

Thursday, October 30 (RR 456): Mid-semester pizza party!

Kearns-Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*, "The Final Weeks," pp. 703-754.

Tuesday, November 4 (RR 456):

Stam, Deirdre Corcoran. "[Growing Up with Books: Fanny Seward's Book Collecting, Reading, and Writing in Mid-Nineteenth-Century New York State](#)." *Libraries and Culture* 41 (2006): 189-218.

Kelley, Mary. "Reading Women/Women Reading: the Making of Learned Women in Antebellum America." *Journal of American History* 83 (1996): 401-24.

Thursday, November 6 (DHC): TEI led by Mike Read

*** Due at start of class: Two transcribed and annotated letters & revisions of letters from October 23 ***

Ed Folsom, "[Database as Genre: The Epic Transformation of Archives](#)"

Tuesday, November 11(DHC): TEI led by Mike Read

*** Due *before* class, by 12:00am Monday, November 10: one letter fully marked up in TEI. Mike will edit these letters before class so that we can work on them on in class on Tuesday. ***

Thursday, November 13 (DHC): TEI led by Mike Read
*** Due by start of class: two letters fully marked up in TEI ***



Tuesday, November 18 (DHC): TEI led by Mike Read
*** TEI revisions of letter from November 13 ***

Thursday, November 20 (DHC): TEI led by Mike Read
*** Due at start of class: four letters fully marked-up in TEI & revisions of letters from October 23. ***

Tuesday, November 25 (RR 456):

Discussion of Beecher, *Treatise*, chapters 14 and 17.
Child, *Frugal Housewife*, "Introductory Chapter" and "Education of Daughters."

Thursday, November 28: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Tuesday, December 2 (DHC): TEI led by Mike Read

*** Due at start of class: last two letters fully marked-up in TEI.***

ALL your letters should now be transcribed, annotated, and marked up in TEI. ***

Thursday, December 4 (RR 456):

Owensbey, *Alias "Paine"*, pp. 10-34, 70-125.

Tuesday, December 9 (RR 456): Birthday Party for Fanny!

Thursday, December 11 (DHC): Oral Presentations in class of Capstone Projects.

****Capstone Project due (as email attachment) Tuesday, December 16, 9:00 A.M.****