Multiple steps are involved in transcribing, annotating and preparing an original letter from the Seward Family correspondence for digital display at a web site the University’s Seward Project hopes to launch as early as 2016. The process starts with an original manuscript, like the one above, which will appear as a digital image at the site.

Here is the transcribed and edited version of the manuscript at top, tagged with TEI coding to link names of people, pets, books and places to other letters that mention them and to background information. The transcribed and edited version of the manuscript will appear at the web site alongside the original as both diplomatic and normalized text. The Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) is a consortium that collectively develops and maintains a standard for the representation of texts in digital form. Its chief deliverable is a set of Guidelines that specify encoding methods for machine-readable texts, chiefly in the humanities, social sciences and linguistics. Since 1994, the TEI Guidelines have been widely used by libraries, museums, publishers, and individual scholars to present texts for online research, teaching, and preservation.
the two countries and Henry throws himself
into it fully comprehending the consequences.
There is something touching in a good man's
love to his country – it resembles the self-
sacrificing spirit of a good mother for
her children. If any thing were wanting to
convince me of Henry’s exceeding magnanimity
this would supply it.

Fanny will tell you of her unsuccessful attempt
to see Willie Wright⁴. Capt. Kenney⁵, moving his
his camp was much in the
situation of a woman cleaning house – every
thing was deranged greatly and he partially.
Friday I am upstairs now with another poor
pen. Last evening Judge Wade⁶ came here with

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⁴ Possibly Guiseppe Garibaldi, 1807-1882
⁵ Lord Richard Bickerton Pemell Lyons, 1817-1887
⁶ Possibly William R. Wright, 1843- of Auburn
⁵ Possibly Captain Gilbert Kennedy, 1827-1863
⁶ Possibly Benjamin Franklin Wade, 1800-1878

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At left, how the final edited manuscript
appears when Prof. Thomas Slaughter
gives it a final read, comparing it to the
original. By that
point it has been
initially transcribed
and annotated by a
student, read by a
student editor,
revised by the first
student, then sent to
Slaughter. “You want
to eliminate as many
mistakes as possible
by using different sets
of eyes,” Slaughter
explains.