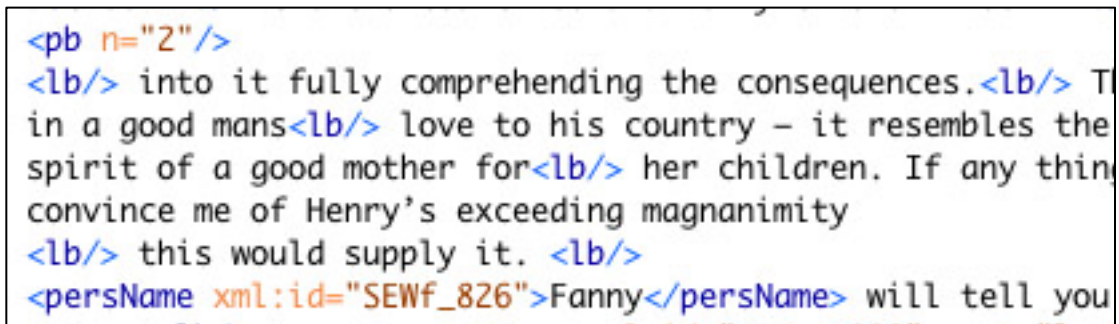
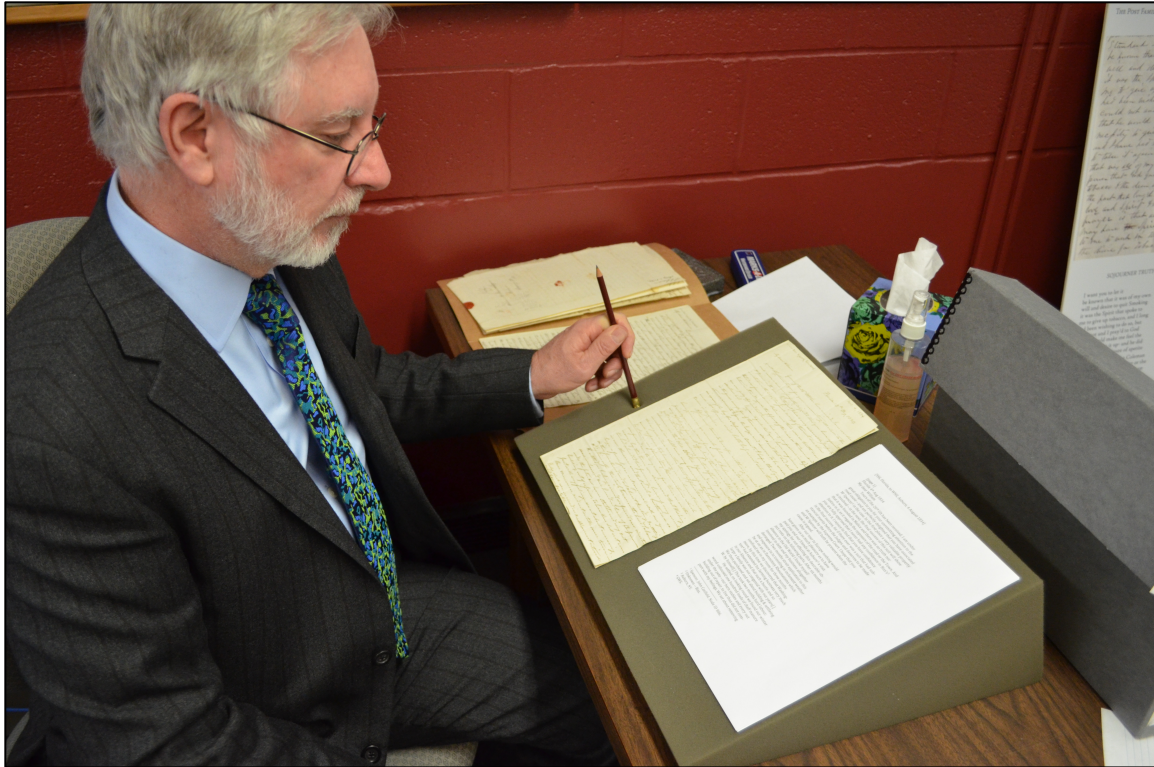
A photograph of a handwritten manuscript on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in a cursive script and is partially obscured by a white rectangular box at the top right. The visible text reads: "into it fully comprehending the consequences - There is something touching in a good man's love to 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 -".

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.

A screenshot of a text editor showing the TEI-coded transcription of the manuscript. The text is color-coded: blue for opening and closing tags, and red for the ID attribute. The text reads: "<pb n='2' /> <lb /> into it fully comprehending the consequences. <lb /> There is something touching in a good man's love to his country - it resembles the spirit of a good mother for her children. If any thing were wanting to convince me of Henry's exceeding magnanimity <lb /> this would supply it. <lb /> <persName xml:id='SEwf_826'>Fanny</persName> will tell you".

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 [page 2] into it fully comprehending the consequences. There is something touching in a good mans 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 ~~Kennessy~~ Kennedy⁵ ; 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

¹ WHS

² Possibly Guiseppe Garibaldi, 1807-1882

³ Lord Richard Bickerton Pemell Lyons, 1817-1887

⁴ Possibly William R. Wright, 1843- of Auburn

⁵ Possibly Captain Gilbert Kennedy, 1827-1863

⁶ Possibly Benjamin Franklin Wade, 1800-1878

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.