

LOCAL HISTORY



A bust of William Seward in the library of the residence in Auburn.

154 Years Ago: In May of 1863, William Seward, then U.S. secretary of state, passed through Syracuse on the way to his home in Auburn, where he remained for a few days with his family before returning to Washington, D.C. Seward had moved to Auburn in the mid-1820s to practice law and met his wife, Frances Adeline Miller, there. Before accepting the position of secretary of state, Seward served as a New York state senator, governor of New York, and a U.S. senator from New York. He campaigned to be the Republican nominee for president, but lost to Abraham Lincoln, who appointed Seward to the position of secretary of state after taking office. One of Seward's most well-known accomplishments as secretary of state was negotiating the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million (roughly \$115 million today). If you would like to learn more about William Seward you can visit the Seward House Museum in Auburn.

— Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association



The Seward House Museum, above, on South Street in Auburn was the home of William Henry Seward, one of the most important American politicians of the 19th century. Below, a look inside the library of the man who was a New York governor, U.S. senator and secretary of state for President Lincoln. *Stephen D. Cannerelli/scannerelli@syracuse.com*

