Name: William H. Seward

Years: May 16, 1801- October 10, 1872

Residence: Florida, New York; Auburn, New York

Brief Biography: William Henry Seward was born on May 16, 1801 in Florida, New York. He went on to study law at Union College and took the New York Bar Exam soon after. He moved to Auburn with a friend and started a law practice. He also married Frances Miller at this time. Seward went into politics and joined the Whig party. He was elected as New York Governor in 1839 for two terms and then was elected as a United States Senator in 1849 all the way to 1861. In his few terms as a Senator, he held an anti-slavery position and would fight very hard to stop the spread of it. At the time, he was even considered a presidential nominee for the 1860 election. Abraham Lincoln would later chose Seward as his Secretary of State too. He had an interesting career; he would be influential in ending the Atlantic Slave Trade and he even survived an assassination attempt from a co-conspirator of John Wilkes Booth. He would serve the same position under Andrew Johnson as well. It was at this time where William purchased Alaska from Russia. He was heavily criticized for the purchase at the time, yet now it is considered a very important step for America. When Grant became president, Seward would retire and live the rest of his life at Auburn, New York. William H. Seward would pass away on October 10, 1872, in his home. He was 71 years old at the time.

Major Accomplishments:
- 12th Governor of New York
- United States Senator for New York
- 24th United States Secretary of State
- Purchased Alaska from Russia

For More Information: For more information, look at a mini biography on the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress.

Resources: Bancroft, Frederic. *The Life of William H. Seward*-2 volume. 1900.

By Joe Palaia