Frances Seward

Frances Adeline Miller Seward, the wife of President Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Seward, was respected in her own right.

Among other things, she was an abolitionist and a friend of Harriet Tubman. Seward and her husband helped Tubman to buy a home in Auburn, New York.

This portrait of Frances Seward, by Henry Inman, depicts how she appeared in 1844.

On the night of April 14, 1865, Seward's husband, two sons (Frederick and Augustus) and daughter (Fanny) were injured during an assassination attempt by Lewis Powell (a/k/a Lewis Paine or Payne).

A friend and co-conspirator of John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Lincoln, Powell (Payne) was arrested, tried, convicted and executed for his crimes.

Although her family members survived the attack, Frances thought that her son Frederick would die. Greatly in fear for her family, thereafter, Frances herself died of a heart attack on 21 June 1865, two months after the attempted murders.

Click on the image for a better view.

Credits:

Image of Frances Seward online via the Seward House Museum.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Frances-Seward-0

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Frances-Seward-0