

## Poland Historical Society Uncovers Civil War Letters

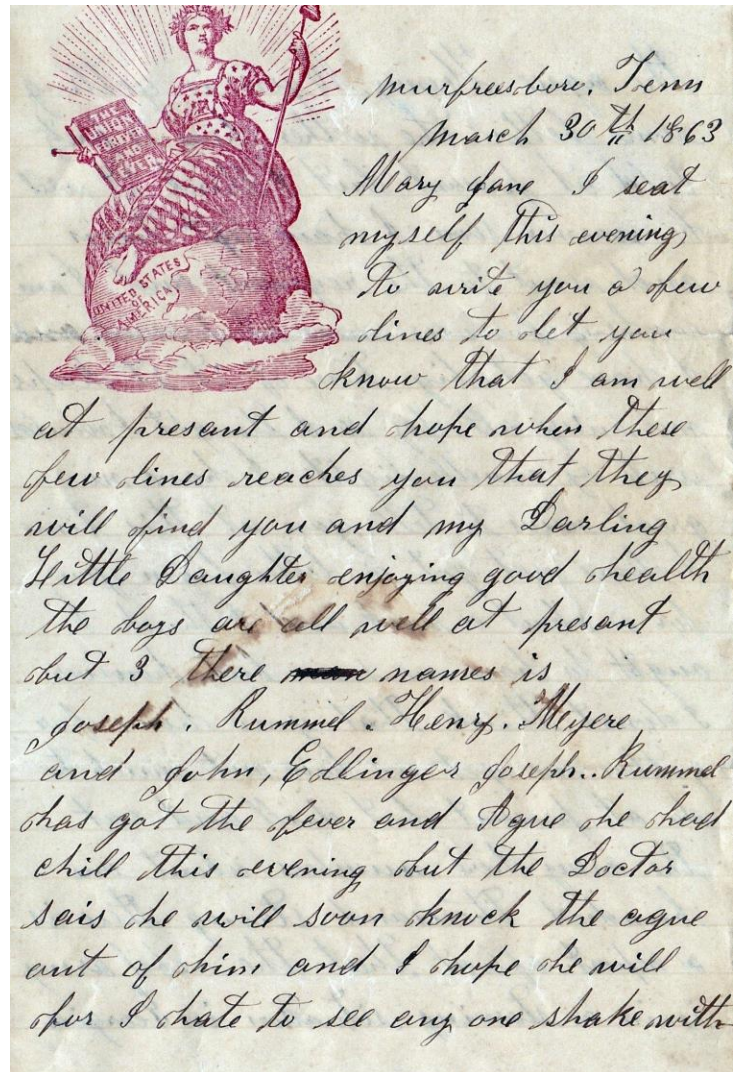
While members of the Poland Historical Society were working on cataloguing items found in the archives at their museum in the Little Red Schoolhouse they came across a surprising discovery. Over forty original letters written by and to Isaac Raub and John Nesbitt of Poland while they were serving in the Civil War were discovered. The letters were found in their original small envelopes. Some were written on stationary and mailed in envelopes which had images of earlier Civil War battles or national points of interest. Both Raub and Nesbitt served in Company H of the 105th Ohio Volunteer Infantry which was mustered in at Cleveland in August 1862. The regiment was composed of many local men. It served in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia and was mustered out in Washington D.C. in June 1865.

The letters speak to the difficulties experienced by both the soldiers miles from home and the families left behind in Poland without their spouses, sons, or brothers. Raub died in a Chattanooga hospital on Christmas Day 1863 leaving his young wife and baby. Nesbitt returned to Poland after the war and served as Postmaster of Poland. Among other local Poland men mentioned in the letters are Isaac's brothers, Samuel and John Raub, John Nesbitt's brother, James, Joseph Rummel, Dr. Charles Fowler, George and Peter Spitler, Ira Mansfield, and the Company Captain Robert Wilson who was killed at Perryville, Kentucky.

The letters have been scanned and placed in acid-free plastic sheets for proper preservation. A thirteen page summary of the correspondence was written and is available at the Schoolhouse.



Envelope from Mary Jane Raub to her husband Isaac stationed at Lexington, Ky.



First page of a letter written by Isaac P.C. Raub to his wife on March 30, 1863