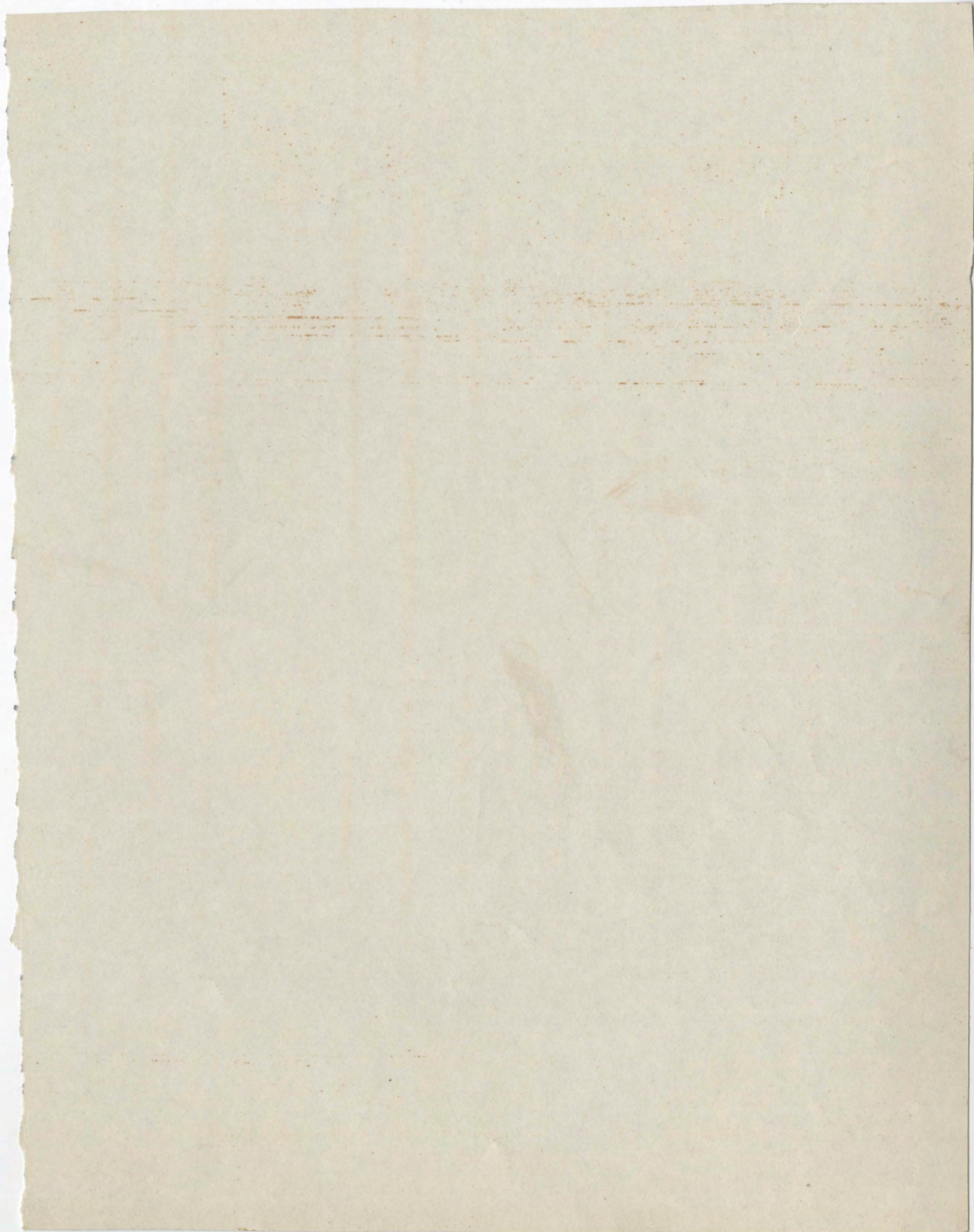
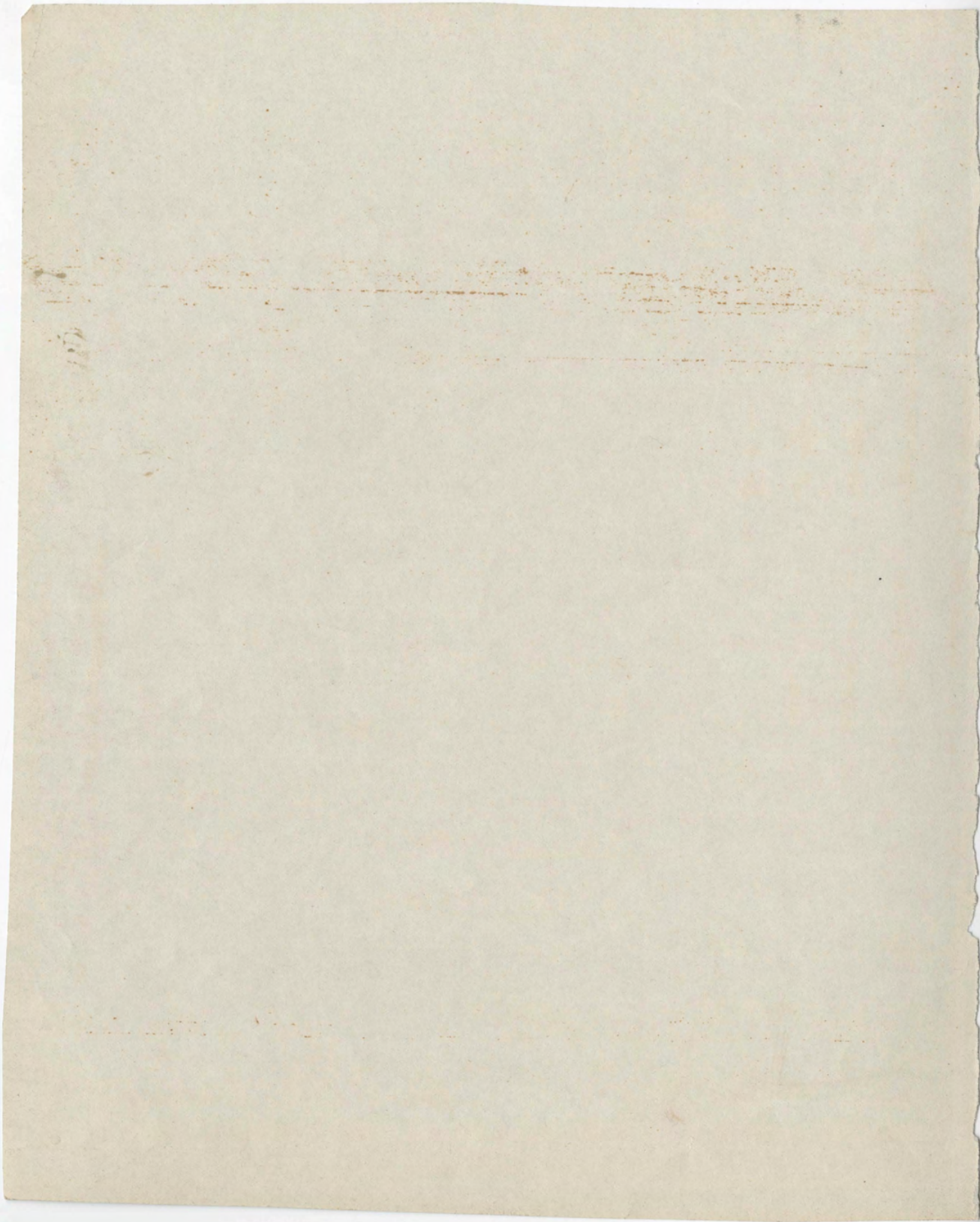


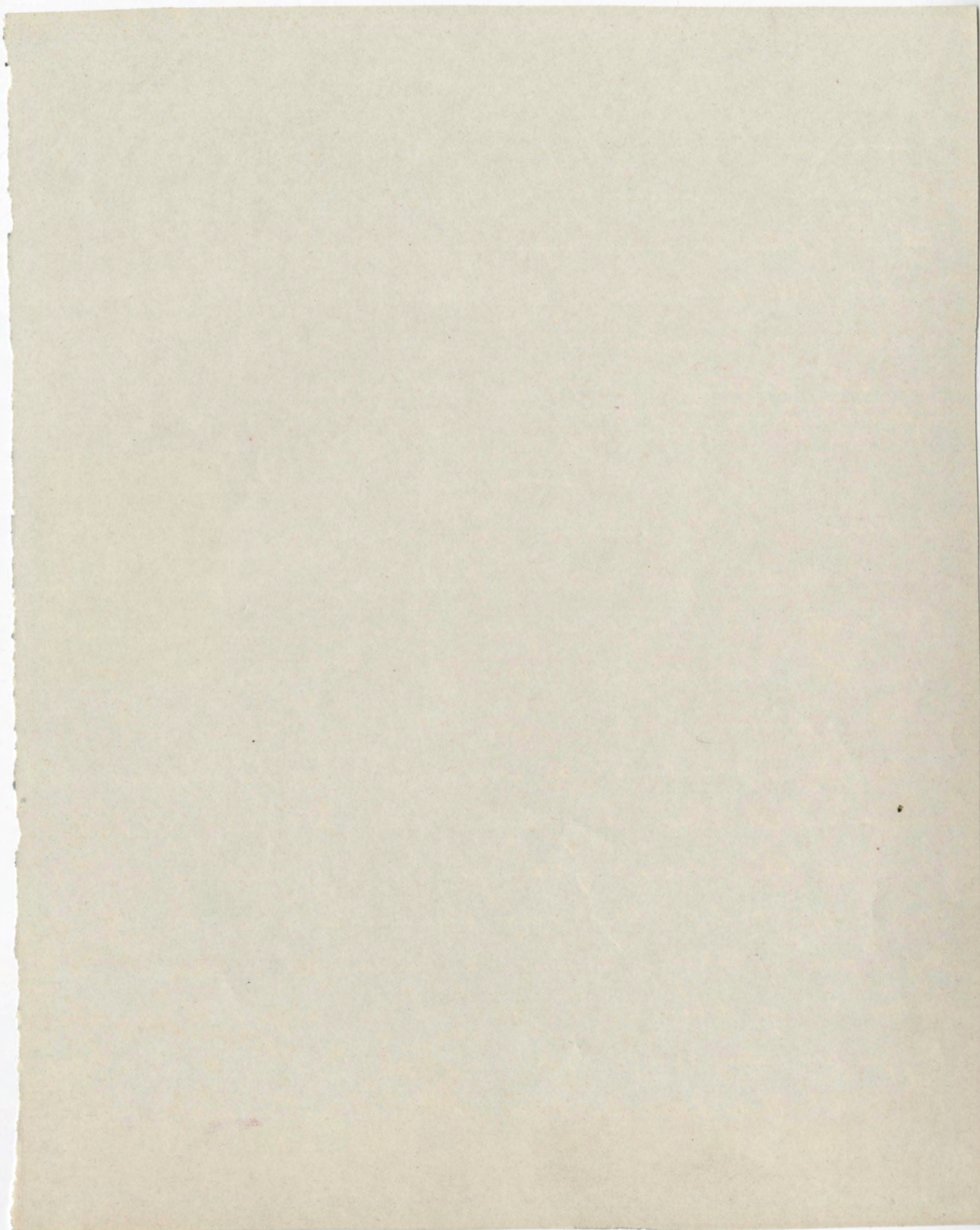
Abraham Lincoln was born Feb. 12. 1809, then in Hardin, now in the
now useless, former county of Leno, Kentucky. His father, Thomas, &
grandfather, Abraham, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, where
this lineage has been traced no further back than this -
that their ancestors had come from Berks County, Pennsylvania. The
family was originally Quakers, though in later times they have
fallen away from the peculiar habits of that people. The
grandfather Abraham, had four brothers - Isaac, Jacob, John &
Thomas. So far as known, the descendants of Jacob and John
are still in Virginia. Isaac went to a place near New
Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, now, and his descen-
dants are in that region. Thomas came to Kentucky,
and after many years, moved there, where his descendants
went to Missouri. Abraham, grandfather of the subject
of this sketch, came to Kentucky, and was killed by an in-
dian about the year 1784. He left a widow, three sons
and two daughters. The eldest son, Mordecai, remained
in Kentucky till late in life, when he removed to Har-
cock County, Illinois, where soon after his death, and
where several of his descendants still reside. The
second son, Josiah, removed at an early age to a
place on Blue River, now within Harrison County, Indiana,
but no recent information of him, or his family, has been
obtained. The eldest sister, Mary, married Ralph Green



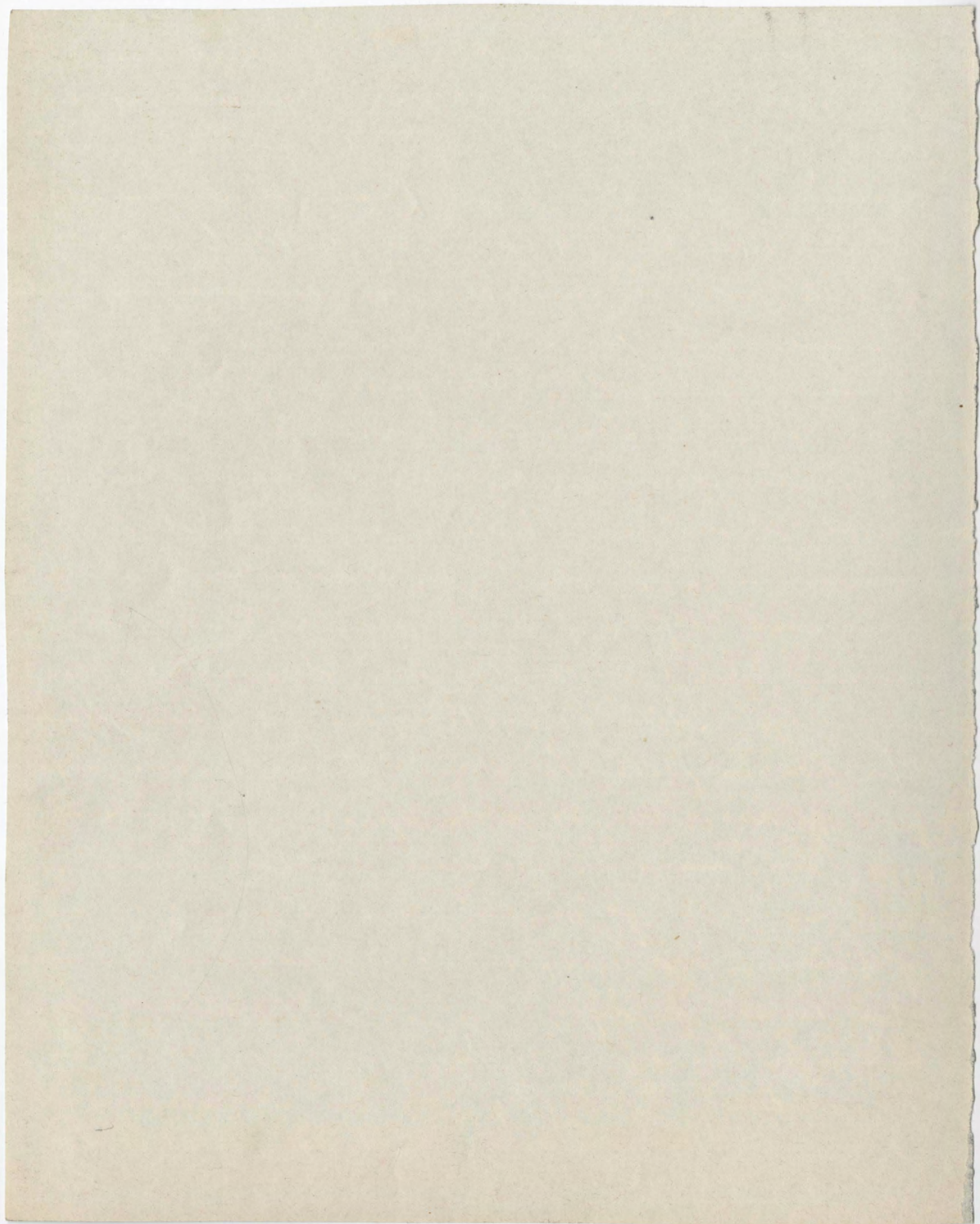
and some of her descendants are now known to be in
 Buckenridge County, Kentucky— The second sister, Mary,
 married William Brumfield, and her family are not
 known to have left Kentucky, but there is no recent informa-
 tion from them— Thomas, the youngest son, and father of
 the present subject, by the early death of his father, and
 very narrow circumstances of his mother, even in childhood
 was a wandering laboring boy, and grew up literally without
 education— He never once moved in this way of entering them
 to briefly sign his own name— Before he was grown, he
 passed one year as a hired hand with his uncle, John
 on Wataga, a branch of the Holston river— Getting back
 into Kentucky, and having reached his 28th year, he married
 son Nancy Banks— mother of the present subject— in the
 year 1806. She also was born in Virginia, and relat-
 tives of hers of the name of Banks, and of other names, now
 reside in Coles, in Macou, and in Adams Counties, Ill-
 ois, and also in Iowa— The present subject has no
 brother or sister of the whole or half blood— He
 had a sister, older than himself, who was grown and
 married, but died many years ago, leaving no children.
 Also a brother, younger than himself, who died in
 infancy— Before leaving Kentucky he and his sister
 was sent ~~to~~ for short periods, to A. B. S. schools, first
 kept by Zachariah Riney, and the second by Colles Bayes,



In this time his father remained on Knob Creek, on the
 route from Baraboo Ky. to Nashville Tenn. at a point
 there, or there was a large mill South or South-West of
 Atherton's ferry on the Rolling Fork. From this place
 he removed to what is now Spencer County Indiana,
 in the autumn of 1816. A. then being in his eighth
 year. ^{This removal was partly on account of scarcity, but chiefly on account of the difficulty}
 The settled in an unbroken forest, and the clearing
 away of surplus ~~wood~~ ^{wood} was the great task
 a head. A. though very young, was large of his age, and
 had an axe put into his hands at once, and from that
 till within his twentieth year, he was almost constantly handling
 the most useful instrument - less, of course, in plowing
 and harvesting seasons. At this place A. took an early
 start as a hunter, which was never more improved afterwards.
 (A few days before the completion of his eighth
 year, in the absence of his father, a flock of wild turkeys
 approached the new log-cabin, and A. with a
 rifle gun, standing inside, shot through a crack, and
 killed one of them. He has never since pulled a
 trigger on any larger game.) In the autumn of 1818
 his mother died; and a year afterwards his father
 married Mrs. Sally Johnston, at Elizabeth Town, Ky. -
 a widow, with three children of his first marriage.

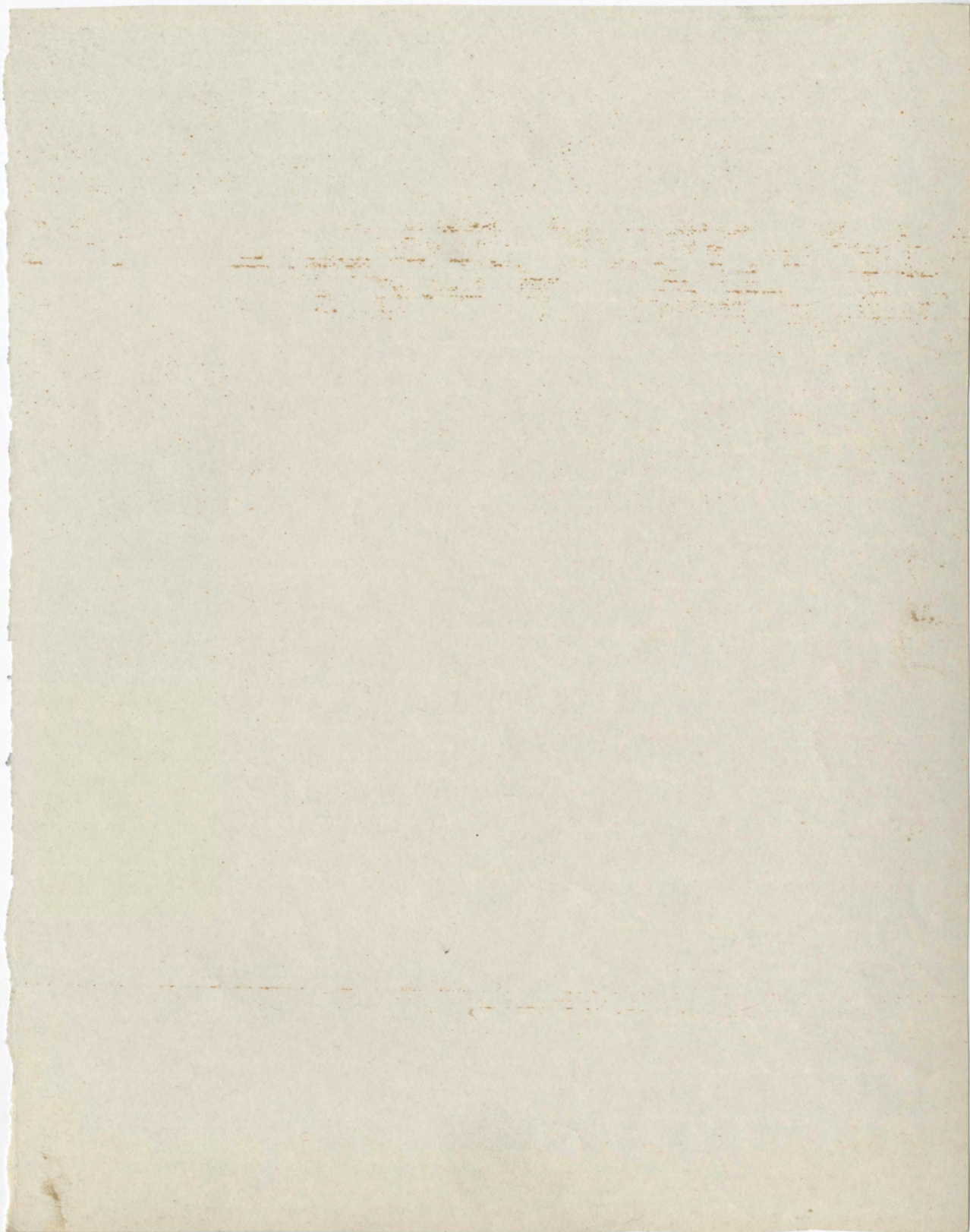


She proved a good and kind mother to A. and is
 still living in Lake Co. Illinois. There were no chil-
 dren of the second marriage. His father's residence
 continued at the same place in Indiana, till
 1830. While here A. went to A. B. C. schools
 by letters, kept accounts by Andrew Langford,
 Sweeney, and Azee W. Dorsey. He does not
 remember any other. The family of Mr. Dorsey
 now resides in Schuyler Co. Illinois. A. now
 thinks that the aggregate of all his schooling does not
 amount to one year. He was never in a College or
 Academy as a student; and never visited a College
 or Academy, including till times he had a law
 license. What he has in the way of education, he has
 picked up. After he was twenty-three, and had separa-
 ted from his father, he studied English grammar, imper-
 fectly of course, but so as to speak and write as well
 as he now ~~does~~ ^{does}. He studied and nearly mastered
 the seven books of Euclid, since he was a member
 of Congress. He regrets his want of education, and does
 what he can to supply the want. In his tenth year
 he was kicked by a horse, and apparently killed
 for a time. When he was nineteen, still residing in
 Indiana, he made his first trip upon a flat boat to
 New Orleans. He was a hired hand there, and he

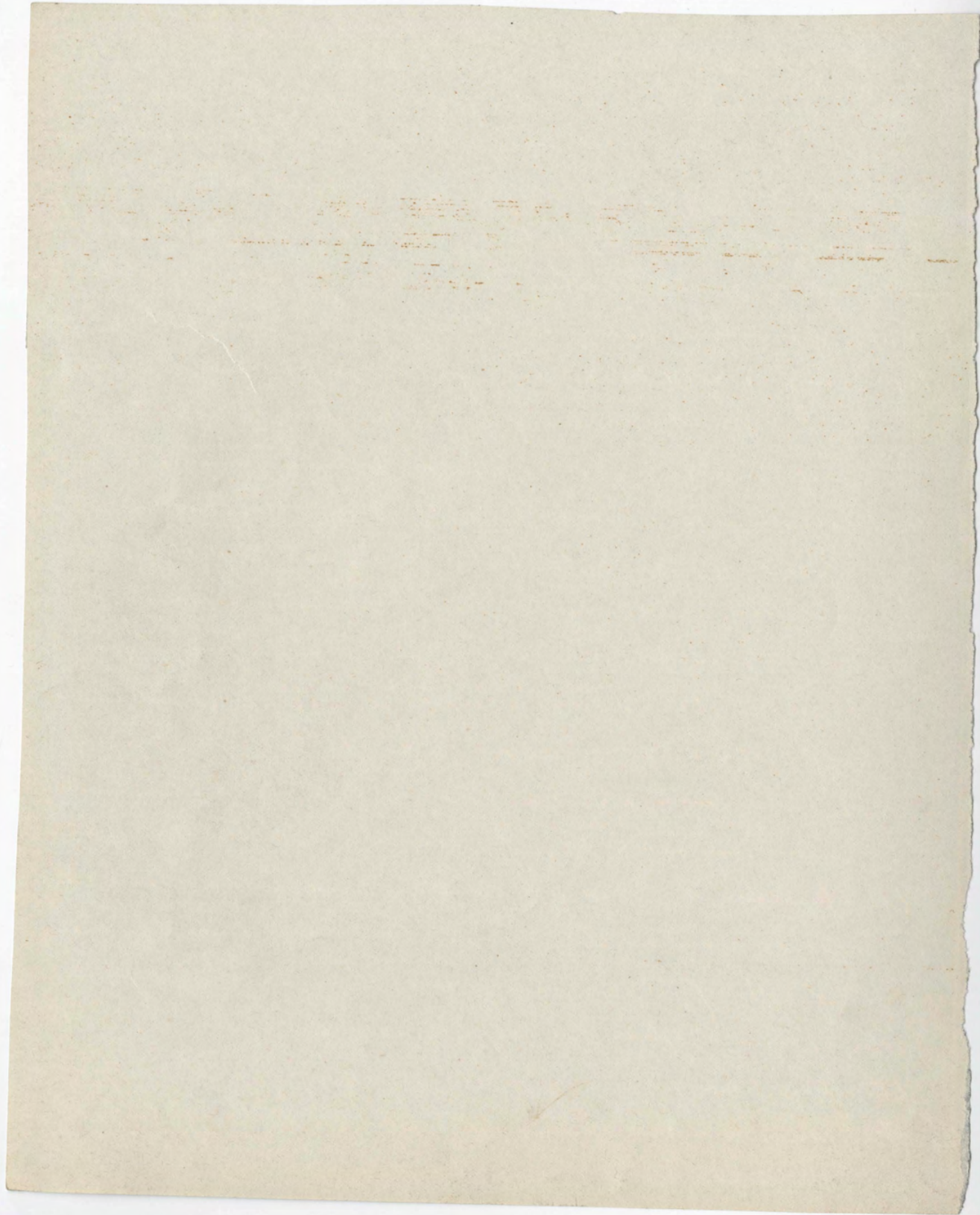


and a son of the owner, without other assistance, made the trip. The return of part of the ~~boat~~ cargo - ~~boat~~, as it was called - made it necessary for them to linger and travel along the Sugar Coast. And one night they were attacked by seven negroes with intent to kill and rob them. They were hurt some on the poles, but succeeded in driving the negroes from the boat, and then "cut cable" and weighed anchor and left.

March 1st 1830. A. having just completed his 21st year, his father and family, with the families of the two daughters and sons-in-law, of his step-mother, left the old homestead in Arkansas, and came to Illinois. Their mode of conveyance was waggon drawn by ox-teams, and A. drove one of the teams. They reached the County of Macou, and stopped there some time within the same month of March. His father and family settled a new place on the North side of the Sangre river, at the junction of the timber-land and prairie, about ten miles West of Decatur. Here they built a log-cabin, into which they removed, and made sufficient of rails to fence ten acres of ground fenced and sowed the ground, and raised a crop of corn upon it the same year. There are, or are supposed to be, the rails about which so much is being said just now, though this is far

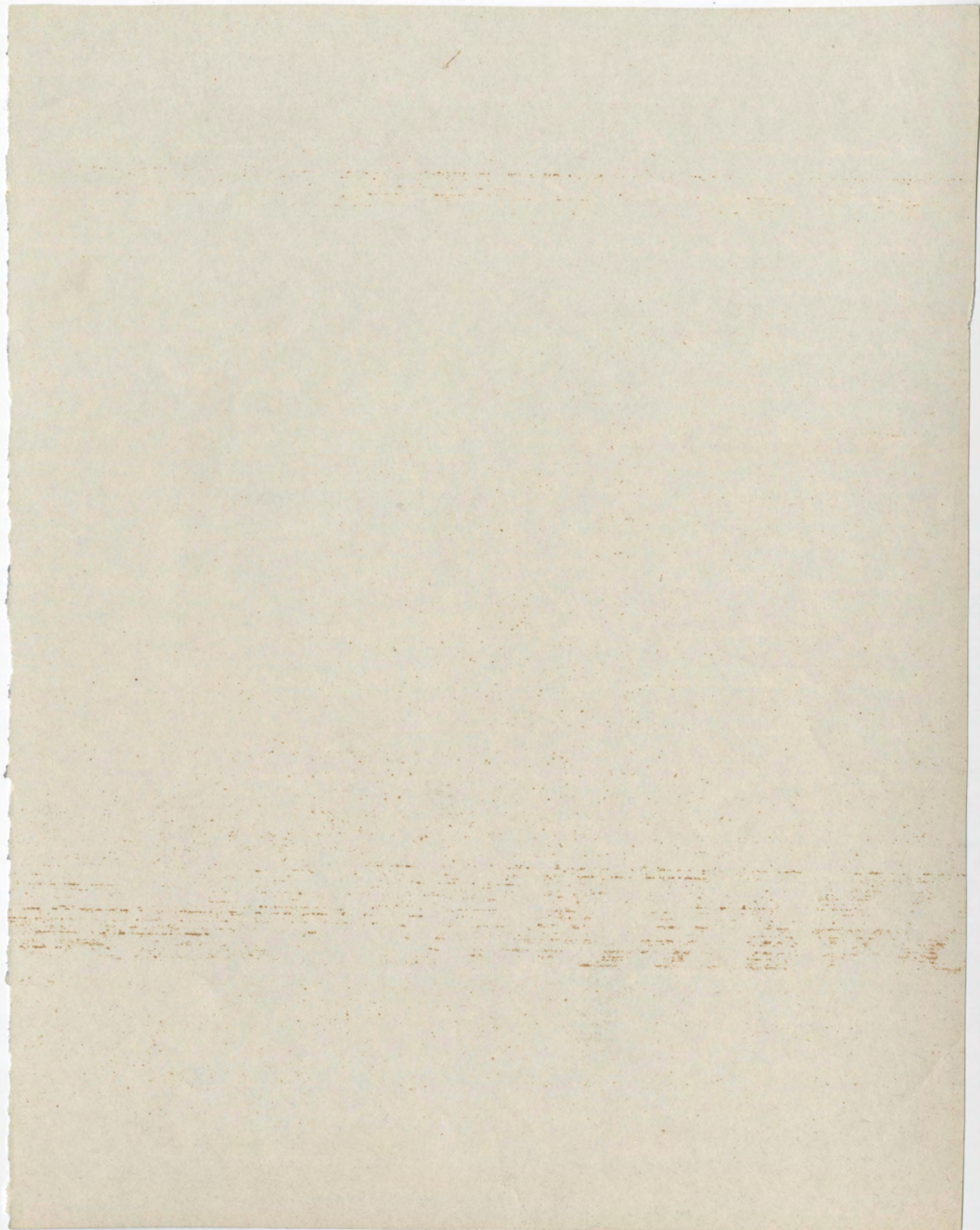


from being the first, or only rails ever made by A.
 The sons-in-law, were temporarily settled at other places
 in the County— In the Autumn all hands were greatly
 affected with Anger and fever, to which they had not
 been used, and by which they were greatly discouraged
 so much so that they determined on leaving the County—
 They remained however, through the succeeding winter,
 which was the winter of the very celebrated "deep
 snow" of Illinois— During that winter, A. together with
 his step-mother's son, John D. Johnston, and John Lamb,
 yet residing in Mason County, hired themselves to
 one Denton Offutt, to take a flat boat from
 Beardstown Illinois to New Orleans, and for that
 purpose, were to join him— Offutt— at Springfield, Ill.,
 as soon as the snow should go off— When it did
 go off which was about the 1st of March
 1831— the country was so flooded, as to make traveling
 by land impracticable, to obtain which difficulty
 they purchased a large canoe and came down the
 Sangamon river in it— This is the time and the man-
 ner of A's first entrance into Sangamon County—
 They found Offutt at Springfield, but learned from him
 that he had failed in getting a boat at Beardstown—
 This led to their hiring themselves to him at \$12 per month
 each, and getting the timber out of the trees

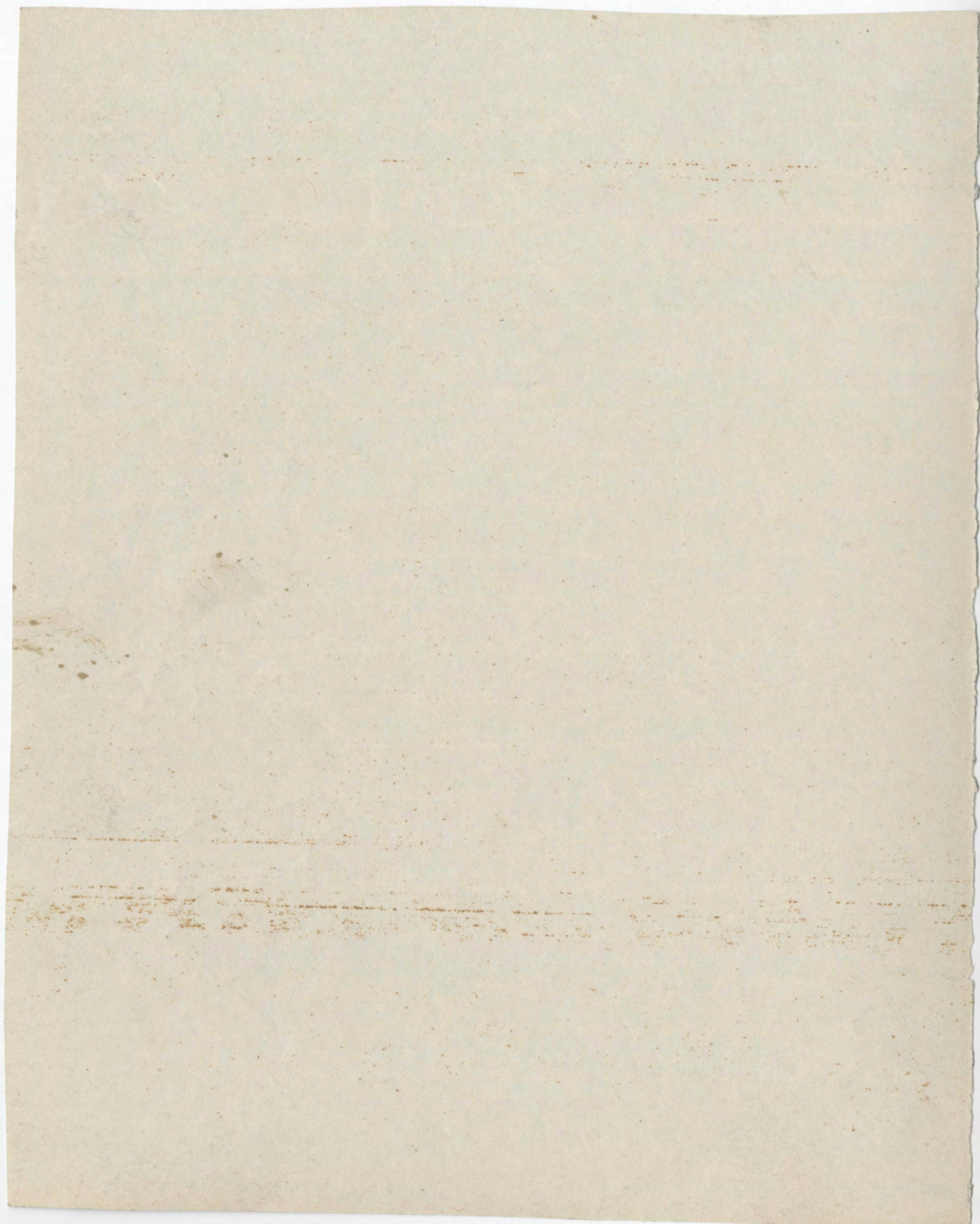


and building a boat at old Sangamon Town on the Sangamon river, seven miles N. W. of Springfield, which boat they took to New Orleans, and eventually upon the old contract. It was in connection with this boat that occurred the notorious incident of sewing up the hogs eyes. Offutt bought thirty odd large fat live hogs, but found difficulty in driving them from where purchased them to the boat, and therefore conceived the whim that he could sew up their eyes and drive them where he pleased. No sooner thought of than decided, he put his hands, including A. at the job, which they completed all but the driving. In their blind contention they could not be driven out of the lot or field they were in. This unfortunate failing, they were tied and hauled on carts to the boat. It was near the Sangamon River, within what is now Menard County.

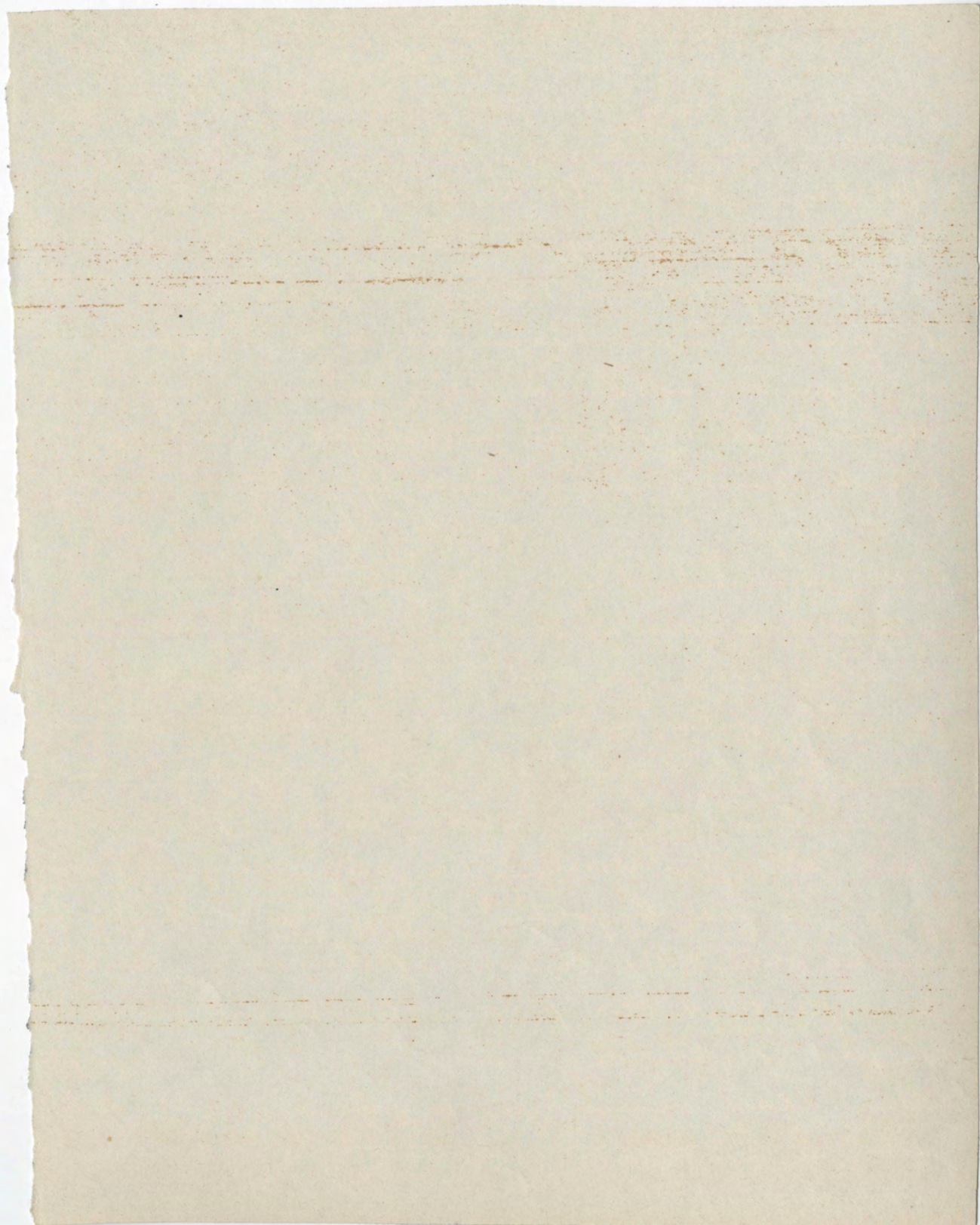
During the boat enterprise acquaintance with Offutt, who was previously ^{entire} a stranger, he conceived a liking for A. and believing he could turn him to account, he contracted with him to act as clerk for him, on his return from New Orleans, in charge of a store and mill at New Salem, then in Sangamon, now in Menard County. Banks had not gone to New Orleans, but having a fever, and being wholly



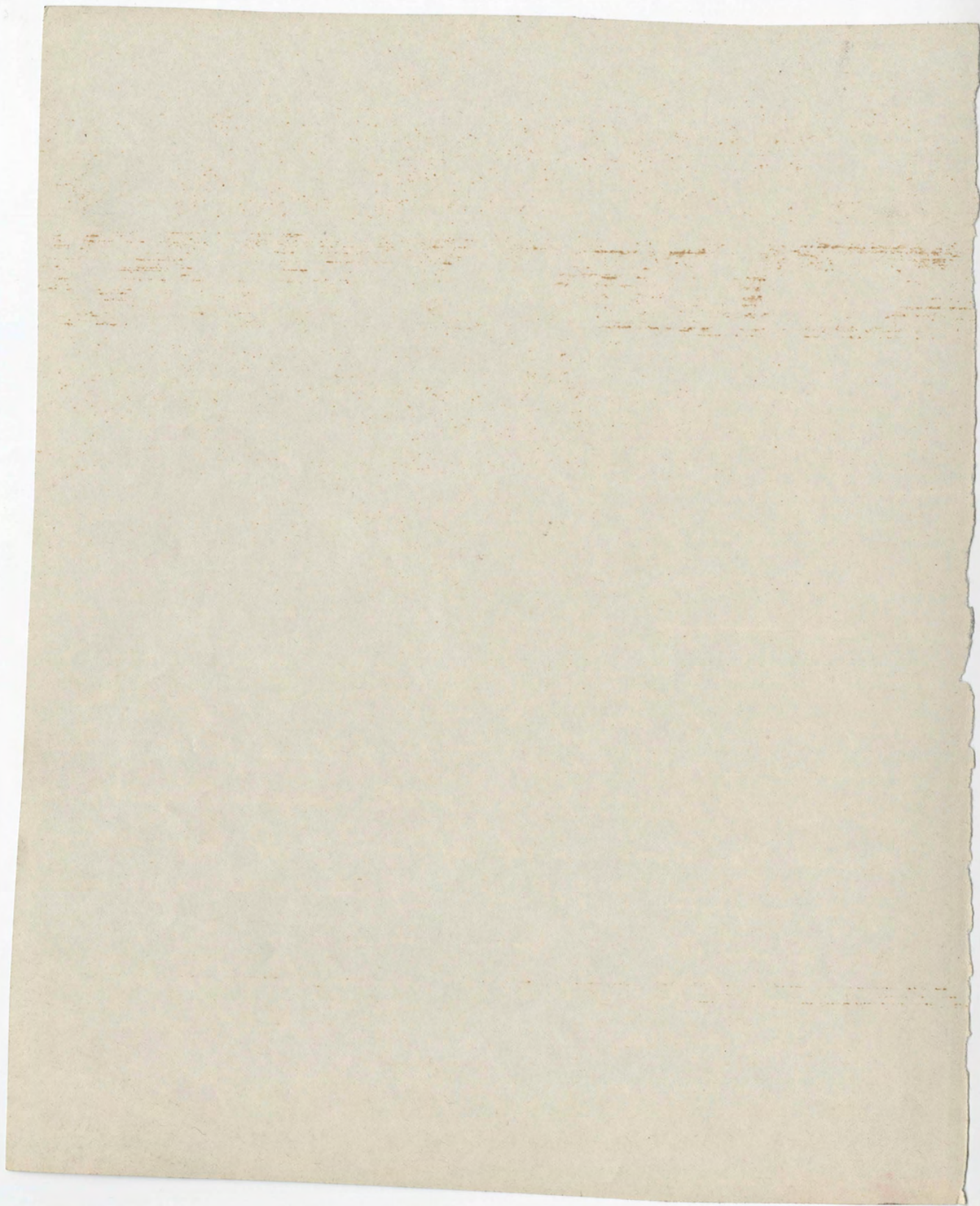
to be detained from ^{home} longer than at first expected,
 has turned back from S. Louis. He is the same
 John Banks who now engineers the "rail enterprise" at
 Decatur, and is a first cousin to A's mother.
 A's father, with his own family & others mentioned, had, in
 pursuance of their intention, removed from Mar-
 caw to Coles County. John D. Johnston, the step-mo-
 ther's son, went to them, and A. stopped indefinitely,
 and, for the first time, as it were, by himself, at New
 Salem, before mentioned. This was in July 1831 - then
 he rapidly made acquaintances and friends. In less
 than a year Offutt's business was failing - had almost
 failed, - when the Black Hawk war of 1832 -
 broke out. A joined a volunteer Company, and to
 his own surprise, was elected Captain of it. He says
 he has not since had any success in life which gave
 him so much satisfaction. He went the campaign, served
 near three months, met ~~some~~ the ordinary hardships of
 such an expedition, but was in no battle. He ran
 out, in Iowa, the land upon which his own warrant for
 the service, was located. Returning from the campaign,
 and encouraged by his great popularity among his immediate
 neighbors, he, the same year, ran for the Legislature and
 was beaten - his own precinct, however, casting its votes 277 for



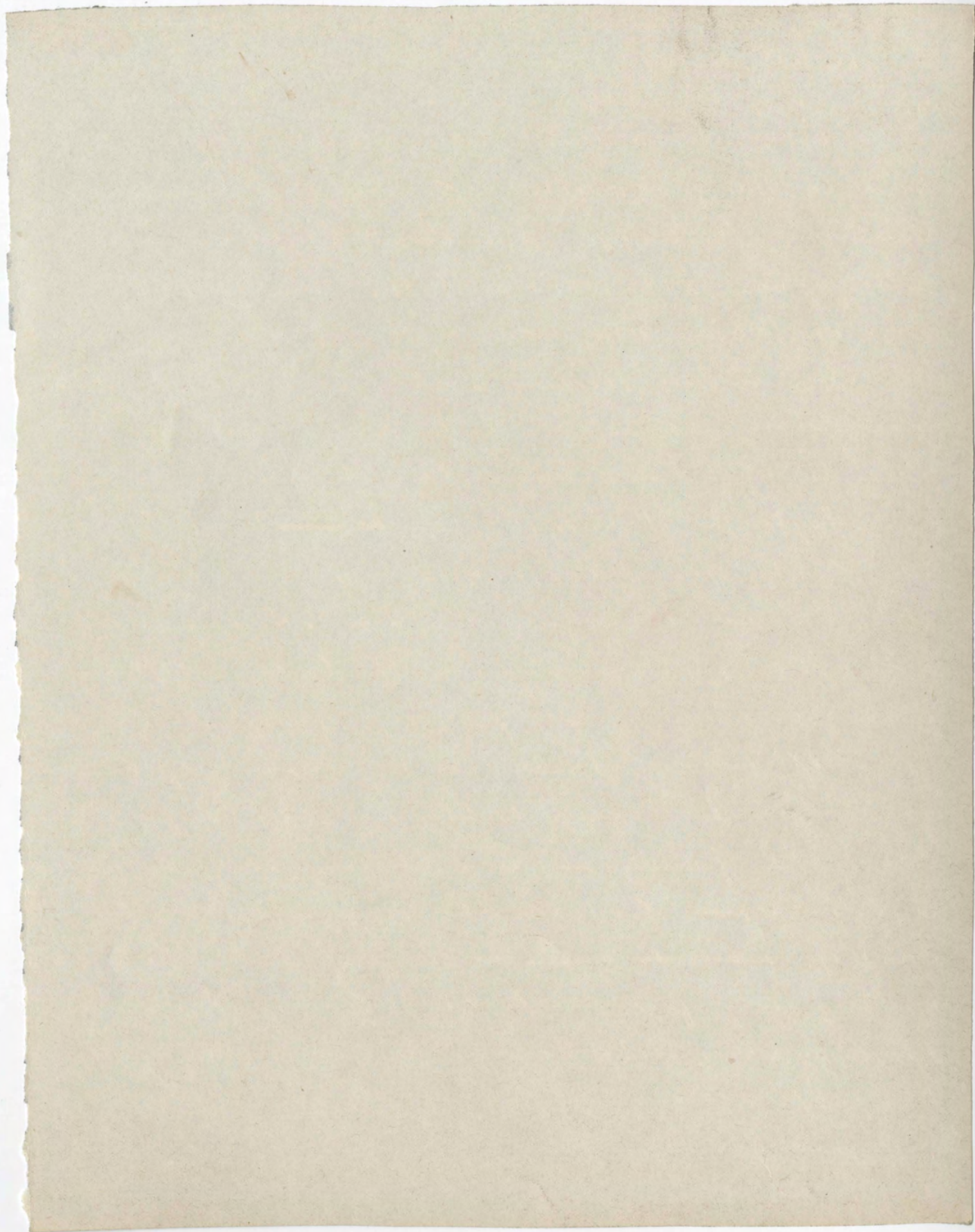
and 7. against him. And this too while he was an
 avowed Loyal man, and the precinct the autumn of
 ten years, giving a majority of 115 to Genl Jackson and
 Mrs Lloy. This was the only time I was ever beaten in a
 direct vote of the people. He was now without means
 and out of business, but was anxious to remain with
 his friends who had treated him with so much gener-
 ous, especially as he had nothing elsewhere to go to. He
 showed what he should do. Thought of learning the
 blacksmith trade. Thought of trying to study law.
 But thought he could not succeed at that without a
 better education. Before long, strangely enough, a man
 offered to sell and and sell, to A. and another as
 poor as himself, an old stock of goods, for cash.
 They opened as merchants, and he says that was
the store. Of course they and nothing but get
 deeper and deeper in debt. He was appointed Post
 Master at New Salem. The office being too insigni-
 ficant, to make his politics an objection. The store
 winked out. The Surveyor of Longman, offered
 to deposit to A that portion of his work which was within
 his part of the county. He accepted, procured a compass
 and chain, studied Flint, and Gibson a little, and
 went at it. The procuring head, and kept some and
 boys together. The election of 1834 came, and he was



then elected to the Legislature by the highest vote
 cast for any candidate. Major John S. Stuart, then
 in full practice of the law, was also elected. During
 the campaign, in a private conversation he encouraged
 A. study law. After the election he borrowed books
 of Stuart, took them home with him, and went at
 it in good earnest. He struggled with poverty—
 He still incurred in the surveying to pay board
 and clothing bills. When the Legislature met, the
 law books were dropped, but were taken up again
 at the end of the session. He was re-elected in
 1836, 1838, and 1840. In the autumn of 1836
 he ~~was licensed~~ obtained a law license, and on April
 15, 1837 removed to Springfield, and commenced
 the practice, his old friend, Stuart taking him into
 partnership. March 3rd 1837, by a protest entered
 upon the Ill. House Journal of that date, at pages 817, 818,
 A. with Dan Stone, another representative of Sangamon, briefly
 defined his position on the slavery question, and so far as it
 goes, it was then the same that it is now. The protest is
 as follows: (Here insert it) In 1838, & 1840
 Mr. S.'s party in the Legislature voted for him as
 Speaker, but being in the minority, he was not elect-
 ed. After 1840 he declined a re-election to
 the Legislature. He was on the Whig electoral

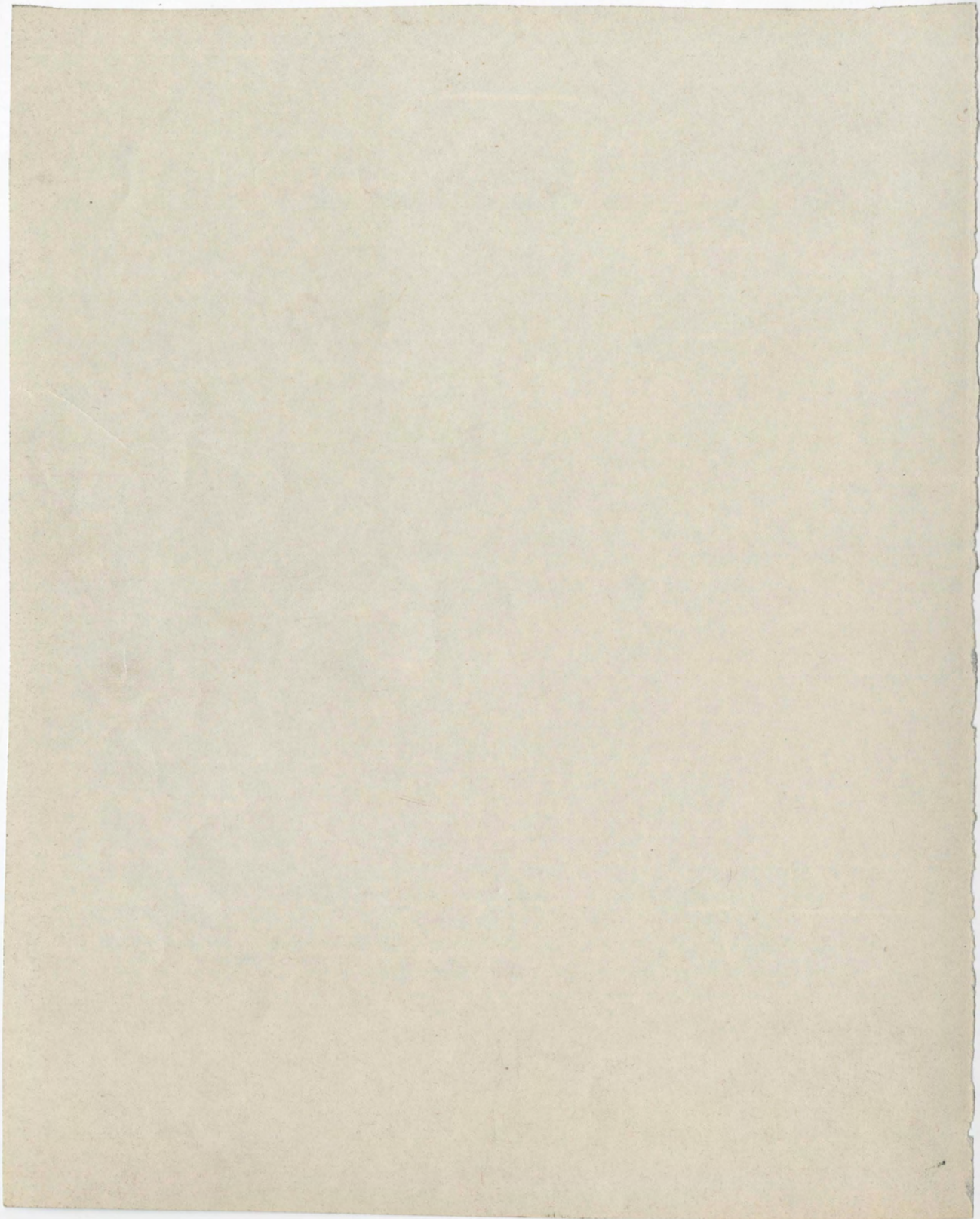


elected in 1840, and on that of delay in 1844,
 and spent much time and labor in both
 those campaigns. In Nov. 1842 he was mar-
 ried to Mary, daughter of Robert S. Todd, of
 Lexington, Kentucky. They have three living children,
 all boys— one born in 1843, one in 1850, and
 one in 1853. They lost one, who was born in 1846.
 In 1846, he was elected to the lower House of Con-
 gress, and served one term only, commencing in
 Dec. 1847 and ending with the inauguration of
 Gen. Taylor, in March 1849. ~~In 1852~~ All the bat-
 tles of the Mexican war had been fought before Mr. S.
 took his seat in Congress, but the American Army
 was still in Mexico, and the treaty of peace
 was not fully and formally ratified till the
 June afterwards. Much has been said of his con-
 duct in Congress in regard to this war. A careful examina-
 tion of the Journals, &c. and Congressional Globe show,
 that he voted for all the supply measures which
 came up ~~while he was there~~, and for all the measures
 in any way favorable to the Officers, soldiers, and
 their families, who conducted the war through; with
 this exception that some of these measures passed with-
 out yeas and nays, leaving no record as to how parliamen-
 tary power voted. The Journals and Globe also show



him voting that the war was unnecessary and
unconstitutionally ~~begun~~ ^{begun} by the President of
the United States. This is the language of Mr
Ashmun's amendment, for which Mr L. and nearly
or quite all, other whigs of the U. S. voted.

Mr L's reason for the opinion expressed by this vote
was briefly ~~that~~ that the President had sent Genl.
Taylor into an inhospitable part of the country belonging to
Mexico, and not to the U. S. and thereby had pro-
voked the first act of hostilities - in fact the commence-
ment of the war; that the place, being the country
forming on the East bank of the Rio Grande, was
inhabited by native Mexicans, born there under the
Mexican government, and had never submitted to, nor
been ceded by Texas, or the U. S. nor transferred
to either by treaty - that although Texas claimed
the Rio Grande as her boundary, Mexico had never
recognized it, the people on the ground had never
~~submitted~~ ^{submitted} recognized it, and neither Texas
nor the U. S. had ever enforced it - that there
was a broad desert between that, and the country
over which Texas had actual control - that the
country where hostilities commenced, having never belonged
to Mexico, must remain so, until it was somehow
legally transferred, which had never been done.

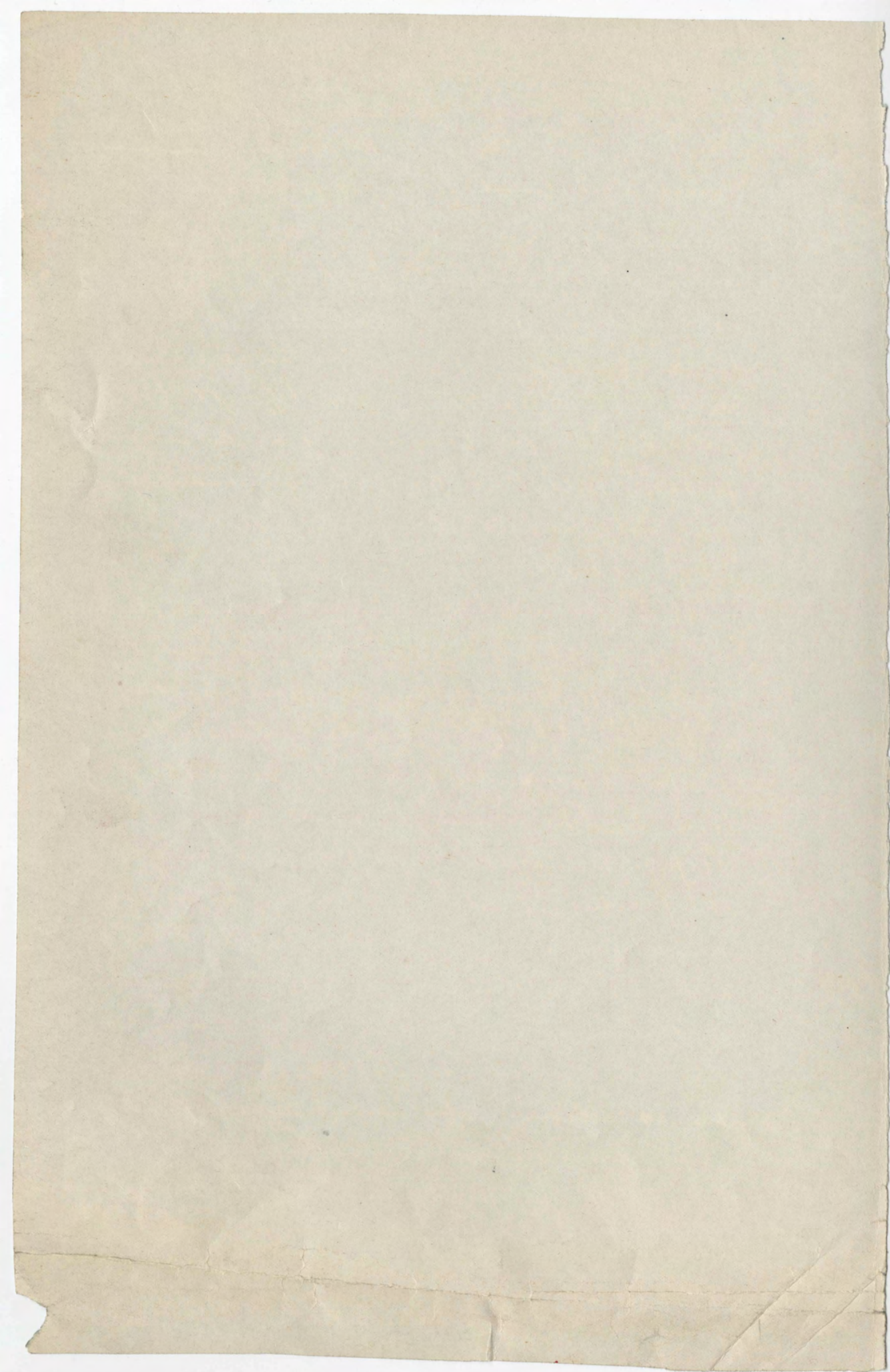


Mr S. thought the act of sending ~~the~~ an armed force ~~to the~~ among the Mexicans, was unnecessary, inasmuch as Mexico was in no way molesting, or menacing the U. S. or the people thereof; and that it was unconstitutional, because the power of levying war is vested in Congress, and not in the President. He thought the principal motive for the act, was to divert public attention from the surrender of "Fifty-four, forty, or fight" to Great Britain, on the Oregon boundary question.

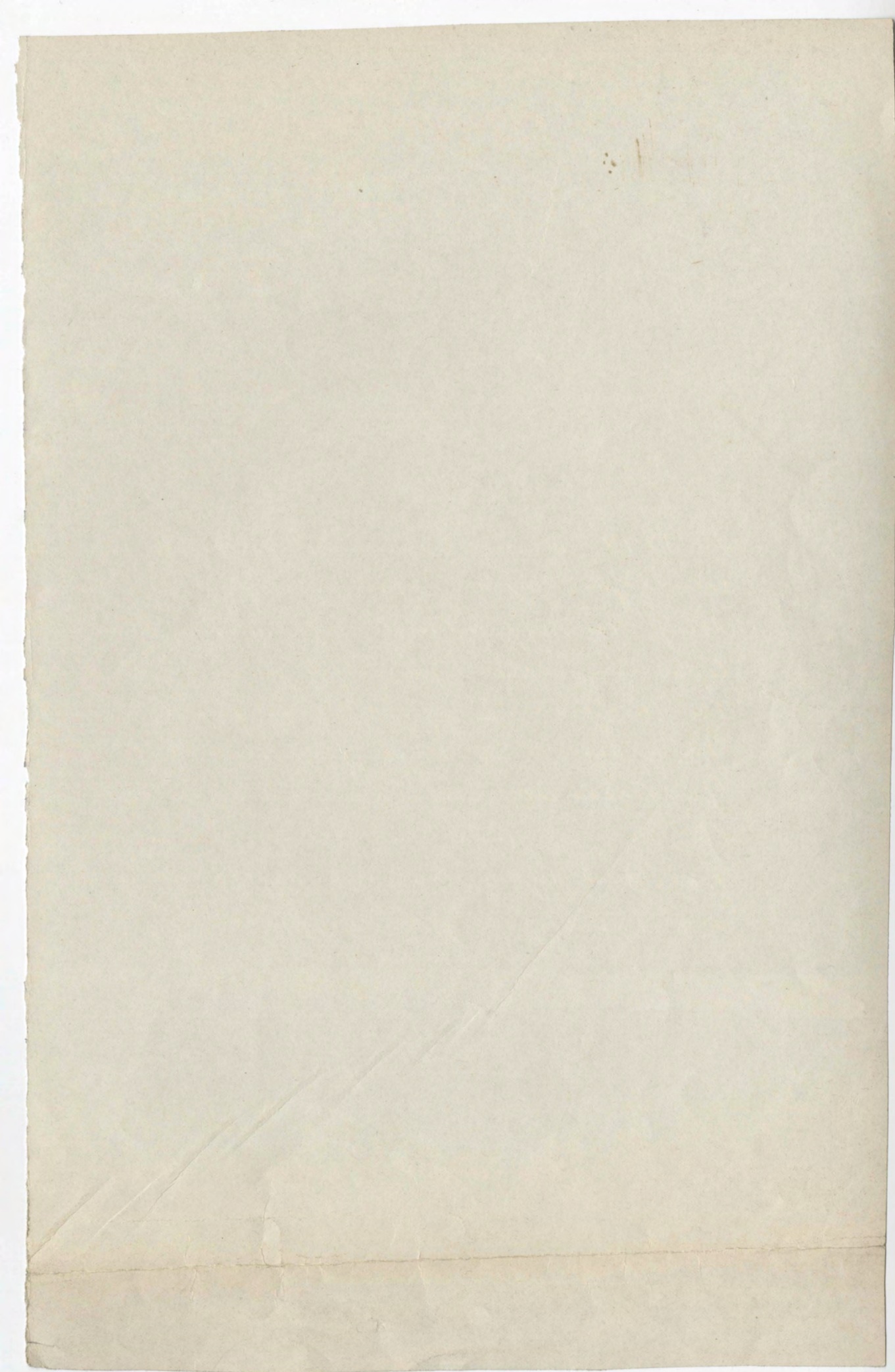
Mr S. was not a candidate for re-election. This was determined upon, and declared before he went to Washington, in accordance with an ^{among his friends} understanding, by which Col. Barham, and Col. Baker had each previously served a single term in the same District. *

Upon his return from Congress he went to the practice of the law with greater earnestness than ever before. In 1852 he was upon the Scott electoral ticket, and did something in the way of canvassing, but owing to the hopelessness of the cause in Illinois, he did less than in previous presidential canvasses.

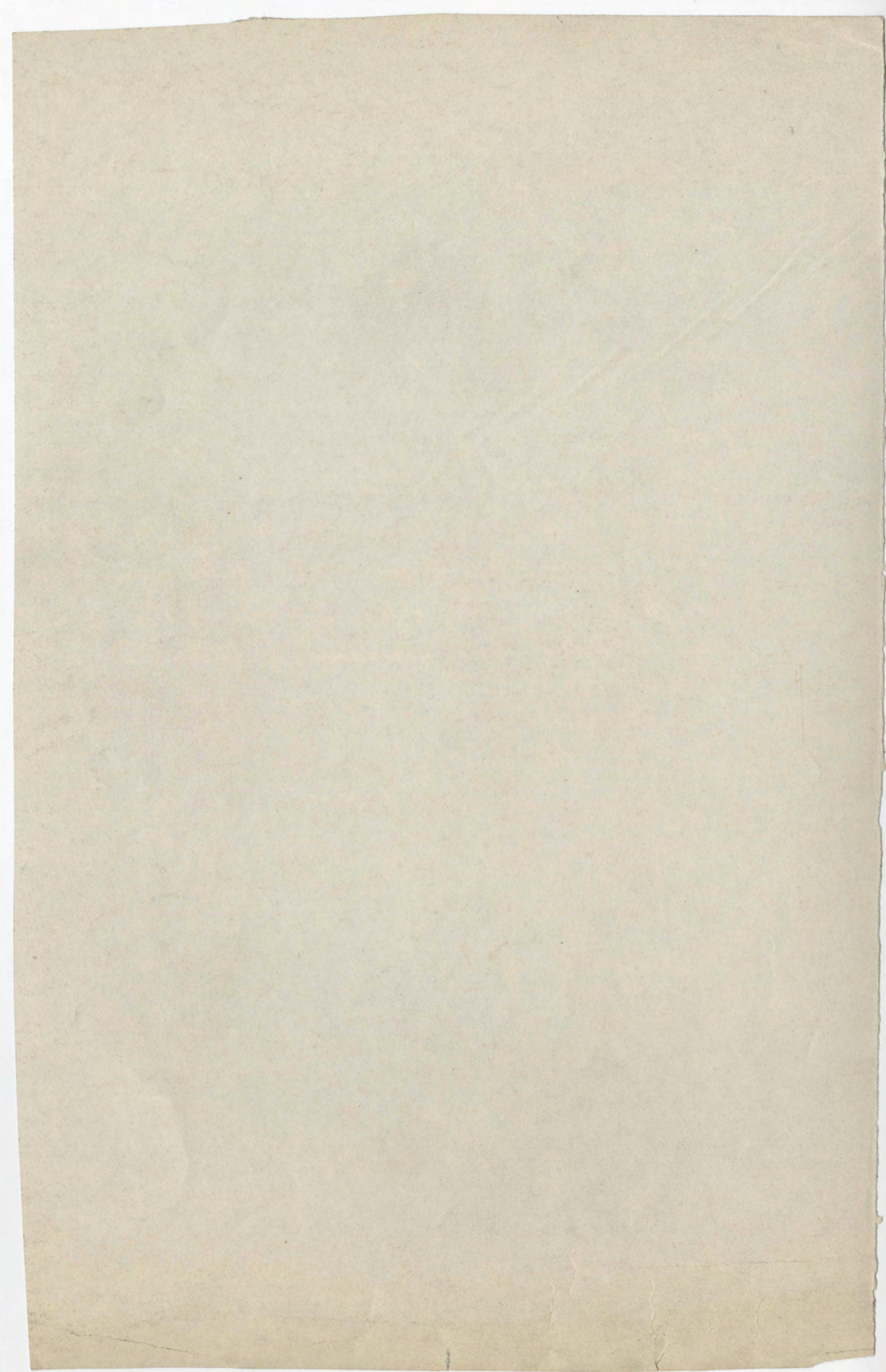
In 1854 his profession had almost superseded the thought of politics in his mind, when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused him as he had never been before.



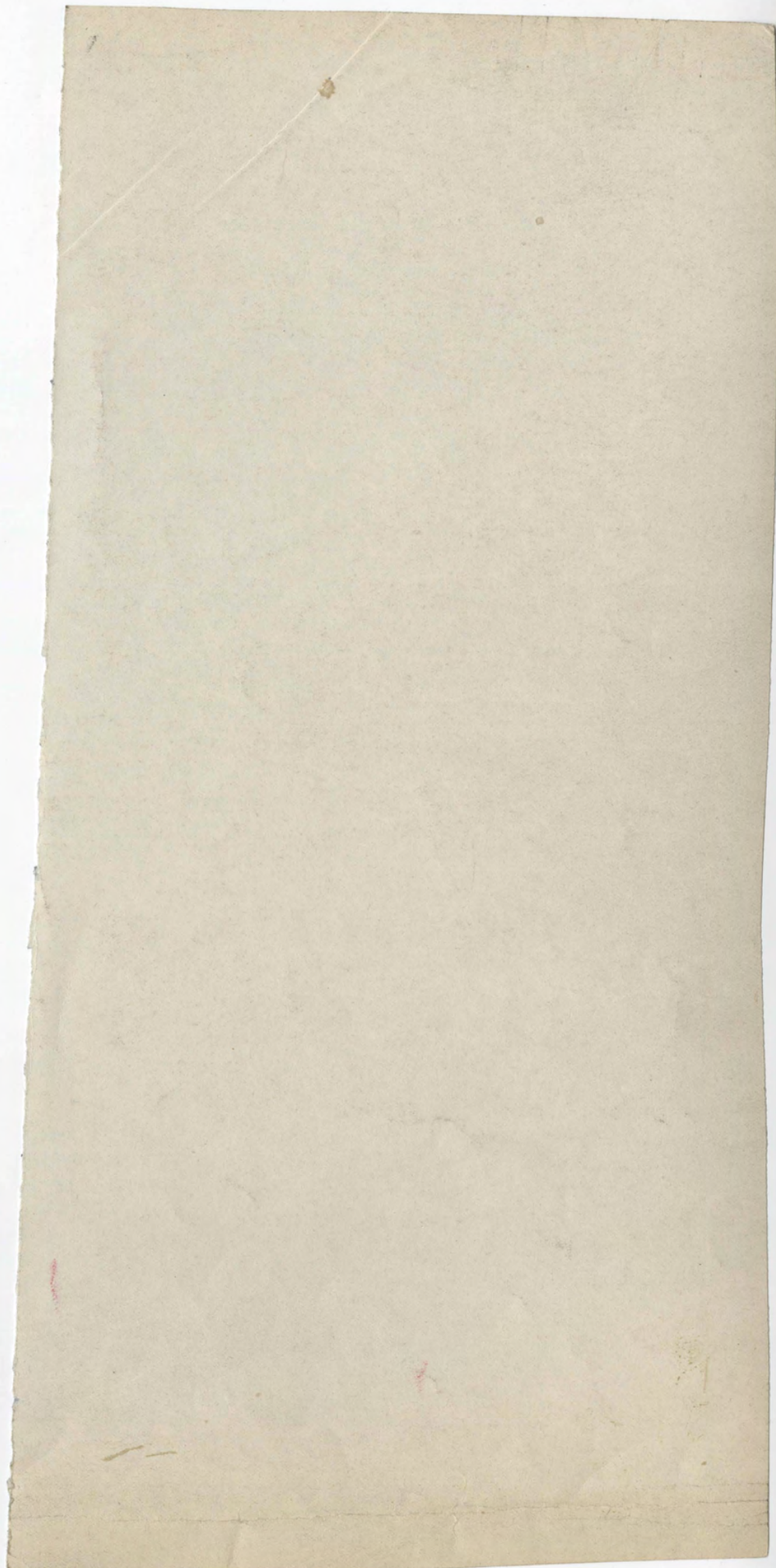
In 1848, during his term in Congress, he advocated Gen. Taylor's nomination for the Presidency, in opposition to all others, and also took an active part for his election, after his nomination—speaking a few times in Maryland, near Washington, several times in Massachusetts, and concerning quite fully his own district in Illinois, which was followed by a majority in the district of over 1500 for Gen. Taylor—



In the autumn of that year he took the stump with no broader practical aim or object than to secure, if possible, the re-election of Wm. Pickens & Gates to Congress. His speeches at once attracted a more marked attention than they have ever before won. At the campaign proceedings, he was drawn to different parts of the state, outside of Mr. Gates' district. He did not abandon the law, but gave his attention, by turns, to that and politics. The State Agricultural Fair was at Springfield that year, and Douglas was ~~again~~ announced to speak there.



In the canvass of 1856, Mr. L. made over fifty speeches, no one of which, so far as he remembers, was put in print. One of them was made at Galena, but Mr. L. has no recollection of any part of it being printed; nor does he remember whether in that speech he said anything about a Supreme Court decision. He may have spoken upon that subject; and some of the newspapers may have reported him as saying what is now ascribed to him; but he thinks he could not have expressed himself as representing—



Abraham Lincoln was born Feb. 12. 1809, then in Hardin, now in the
now useless, former county of Leno, Kentucky. - His father Thomas, &
grand-father, Abraham, were born in Buckingham county Virginia, where
this lineage has been traced no further back than this -
that their ancestor had come from Berks County, Pennsylvania. - The
family was originally quaker, though in later times they have
fallen away from the peculiar habits of that people. - The
grand-father Abraham, had four brothers - Isaac, Jacob, John &
Thomas. - So far as known, the descendants of Jacob and John
are still in Virginia. - Isaac went to a place near where
Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, join; and his descen-
dants are in that region. - Thomas came to Kentucky,
and after many years, died there, where his descendants
went to Missouri. - Abraham, grand-father of the subject
of this sketch, came to Kentucky, and was killed by an in-
surrection about the year 1784. - He left a widow, three sons
and two daughters. - The eldest son, Mordecai, remained
in Kentucky till late in life, when he removed to Har-
rison County, Illinois, where soon after he died, and
where several of his descendants still reside. - The
second son, Josiah, removed at an early age to a
place on Blue River, now within Harrison County, Indiana,
but no recent information of him, or his family, has been
obtained. - The eldest sister, Mary, married Ralph Brown

and some of her descendants are now known to be in
 Buckner's county Kentucky— The second sister, Mary,
 married William Brumfield, and her family are not
 known to have left Kentucky, but there is no recent informa-
 tion from them— Thomas, the youngest son, and father of
 the present subject, by the early death of his father, and
 very narrow circumstances of his mother, even in childhood
 was a wandering laboring boy, and grew up literally without
 education— He never once moved in the way of visiting them
 to briefly sign his own name— Before he was grown, he
 passed one year as a hired hand with his uncle, a slave
 on Wataga, a branch of the Holston river— Getting back
 into Kentucky, and having reached his 28th year, he married
 a Nancy Banks— mother of the present subject— in the
 year 1806. She also was born in Virginia, and relatives
 of hers of the name of Banks, and of other names, now
 reside in Leake, in Macon, and in Adams Counties, Ill.
 ois, and also in Iowa— The present subject has no
 brothers or sisters of the whole or half blood— He
 had a sister, older than himself, who was grown and
 married, but died many years ago, leaving no children.
 Also a brother, younger than himself, who died in
 infancy— Before leaving Kentucky he and his sister
 was sent to for short periods, to A. B. C. schools, ^{the} first
 kept by Zachariah Riney, and the second by Isaac Bayes,

