

Hingham, March 2, 1840.

Hon. Artemas Hale,

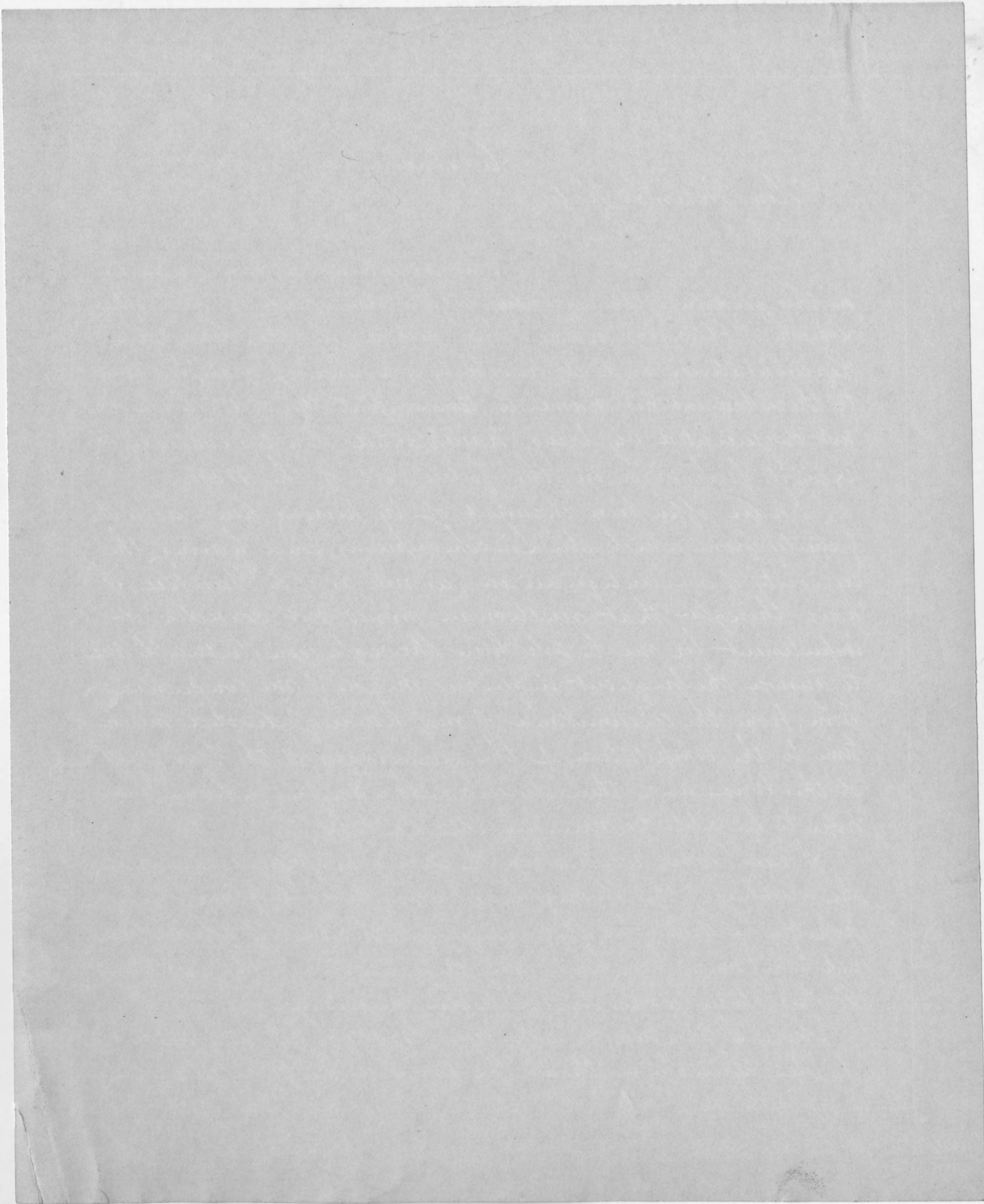
Dear Sir,

Our attention has been arrested in this quarter of the country by the able speech of Hon. Mr. Lincoln of Illinois made this session, in the House of Representatives - and it has been a source of gratification to those bearing his name to know that the old stock has not degenerated by being transplanted. On the contrary, it exhibits fresh vigor in the fertile soil of the West.

I have often been inquired of by persons here - as to the family from which Mr. Lincoln sprung, and having the curiosity of an antiquarian, as well as of a Yankee, I have thought that gentleman would not consider it impudent for me to ask him through you, to enable me to answer the frequent inquiries made of me concerning him, from the circumstance of my having devoted much time to the compilation of the genealogies of the first settlers of this town and their descendants - among whom we hope to be able to number Mr. Lincoln.

I have some recollection of seeing his name among the members of the Illinois Legislature several years since & possibly he may be the same gentleman of whom Samuel Whitcomb Esq, had some information when on a Western tour some ten or twelve years ago.

May I venture to ask you to signify my wishes to Mr. Lincoln - that he would inform me of



the time & place of his birth - the names of his father and  
grandfather - their residence - and so much of his  
personal history as he feels inclined to impart. - I suppose  
that if I can be aided by him in tracing his ancestors  
for two generations, that I may be able to supply the  
connecting links which connect him with the early  
settlers of Massachusetts.

I remain very truly,

Your friend & servant  
Samuel Lincoln

