Kansas Memory

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L. F. Pearson to Henry J. Aten about Chief Wiskigeamatyuk

A letter written by L. F. Pearson, United States Indian Agent to Colonel Henry J. Aten, allotting agent. Pearson describes the activities of Chief Wiskigeamatyuk, a Prairie band Pottawatomie chief and medicine man who condemned missionaries and influenced his followers against the principles of civilization. Pearson proposed withholding all allotments to Chief Wiskigeamatyuk and his followers.

Date: January 19, 1896

Callnumber: 2010.091.01

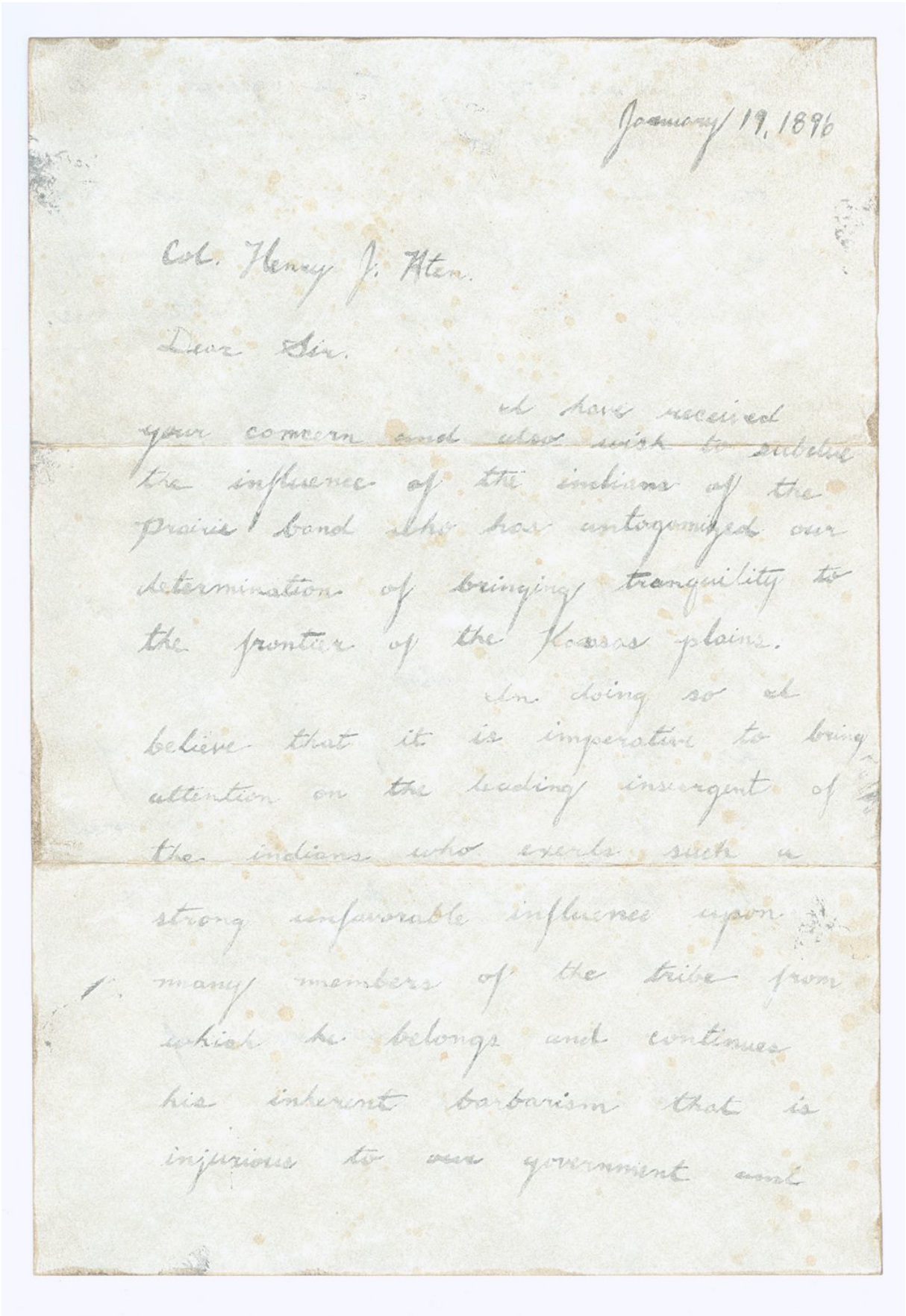
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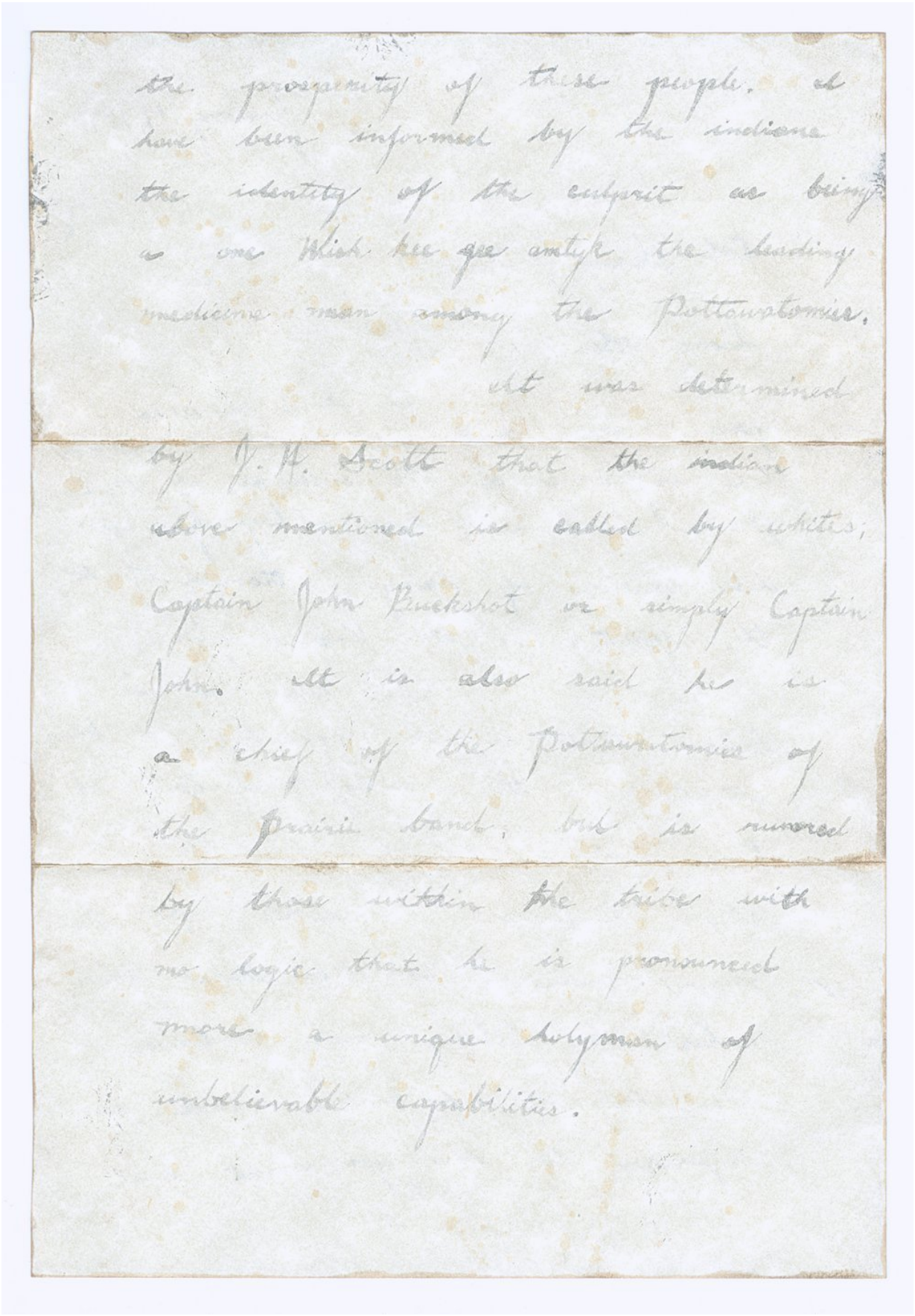
Col. Henry J. Aten.

Dear Sir.

I have received your concern and also wish to advise the influence of the indians of the prairie band who has antagonized our determination of bringing tranquility to the frontier of the Kansas plains.

In doing so I believe that it is imperative to bring attention on the leading insergent of the indians who exerts such a strong unfavorable influence upon many members of the tribe from which he belongs and continues his inherent barbarism that is injurious to our government and

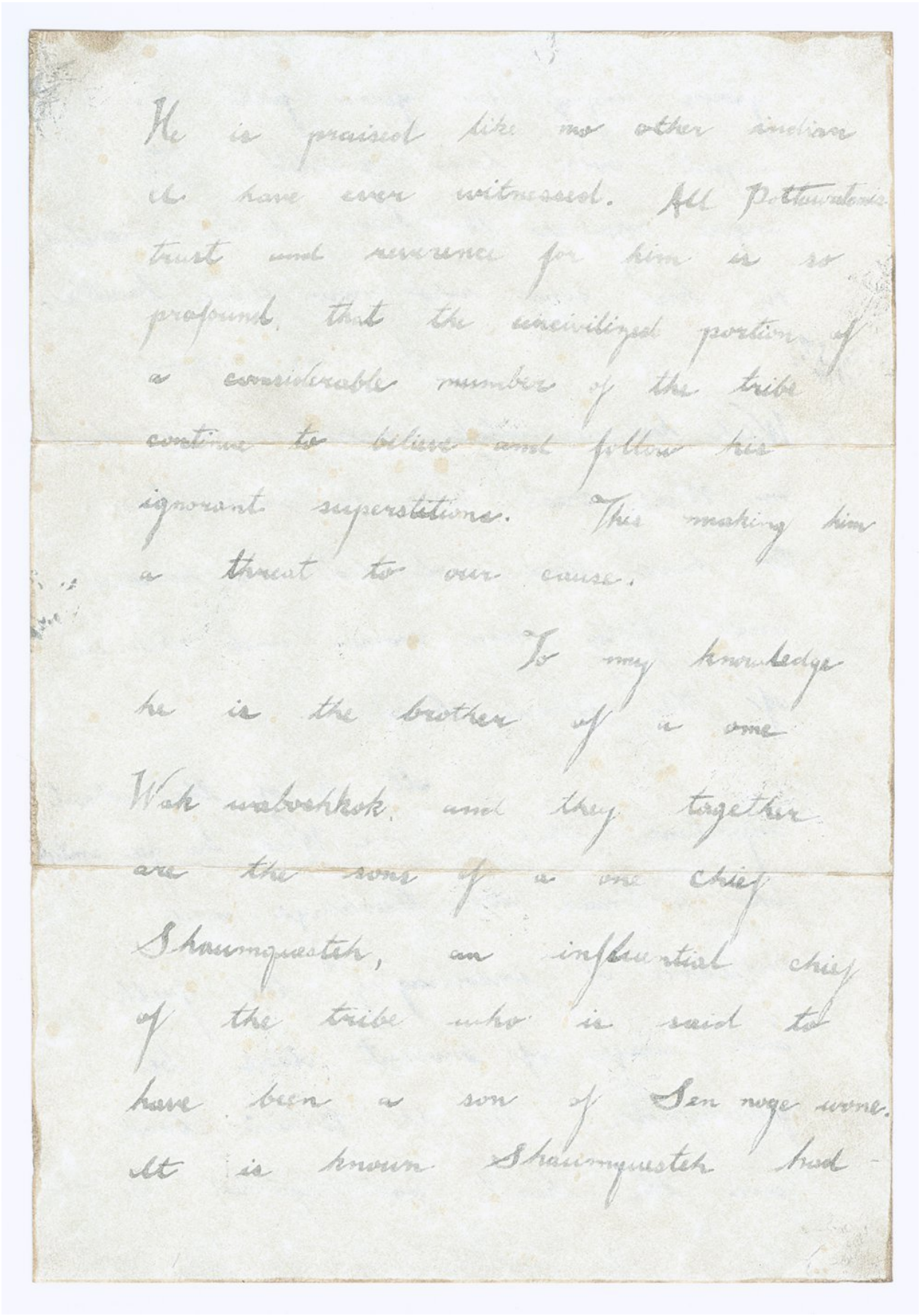
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the prosperity of these people. It have been informed by the indians the identity of the culprit as being one which has got amongst the leading medicine men among the Pottawatomies.

It was determined by J. H. Scott that the indian above mentioned is called by whites, Captain John Buckshot or simply Captain John. It is also said he is a chief of the Potawatomies of the prairie band, but is rumored by those within the tribe with no logic that he is pronounced more a unique helyman of unbelievable capabilities.

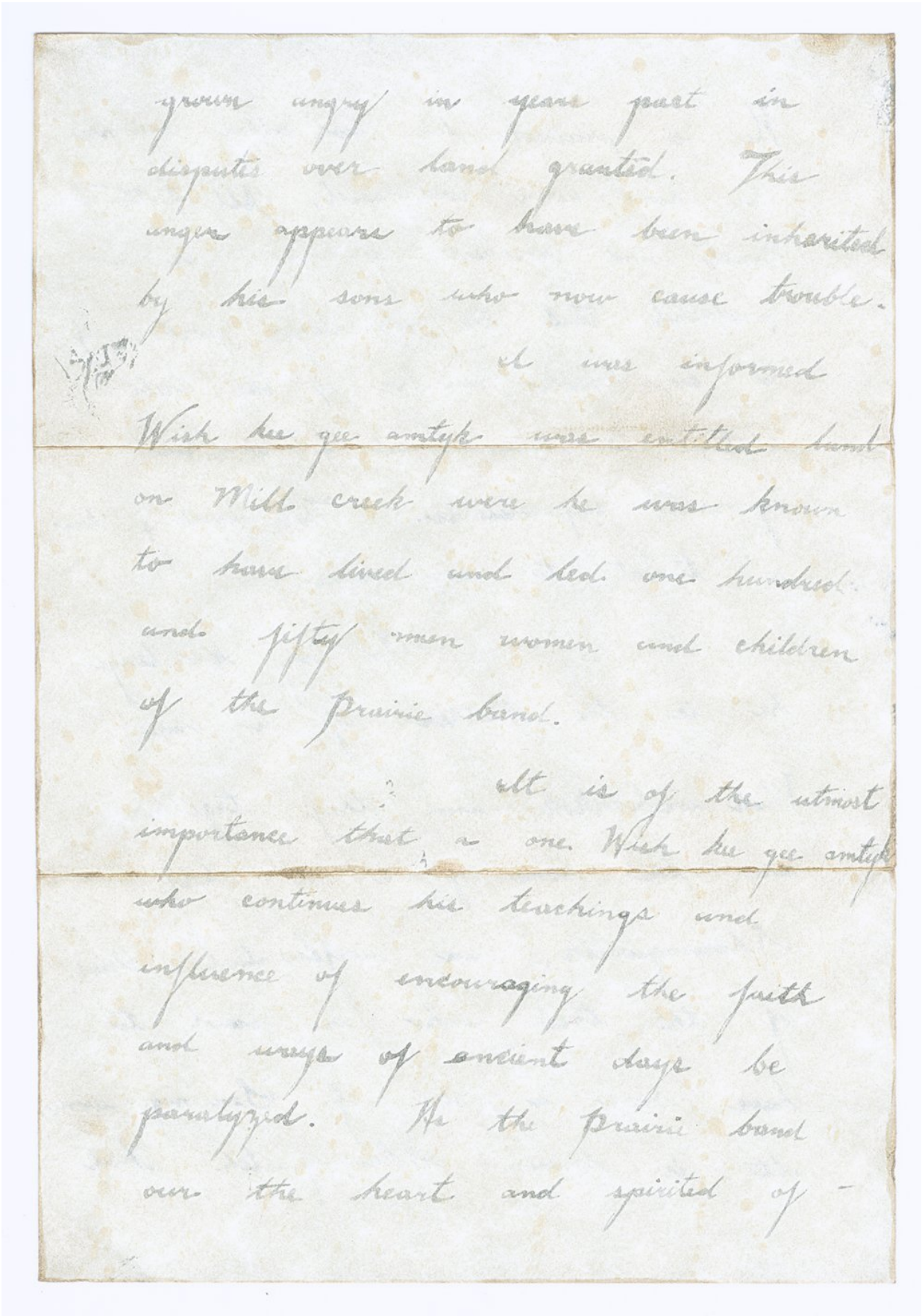
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He is praised like no other indian
I have ever witnessed. All Pottawatomie
trust and reverence for him is so
profound that the uncivilized portion of
a considerable number of the tribe
continue to believe and follow his
ignorant superstitions. This making him
a threat to our cause.

To my knowledge
he is the brother of a one
Wah wahshkuk and they together
are the sons of a one Chief
Shaumpostah, an influential chief
of the tribe who is said to
have been a son of Sen nege awne.
It is known Shaumpostah had -

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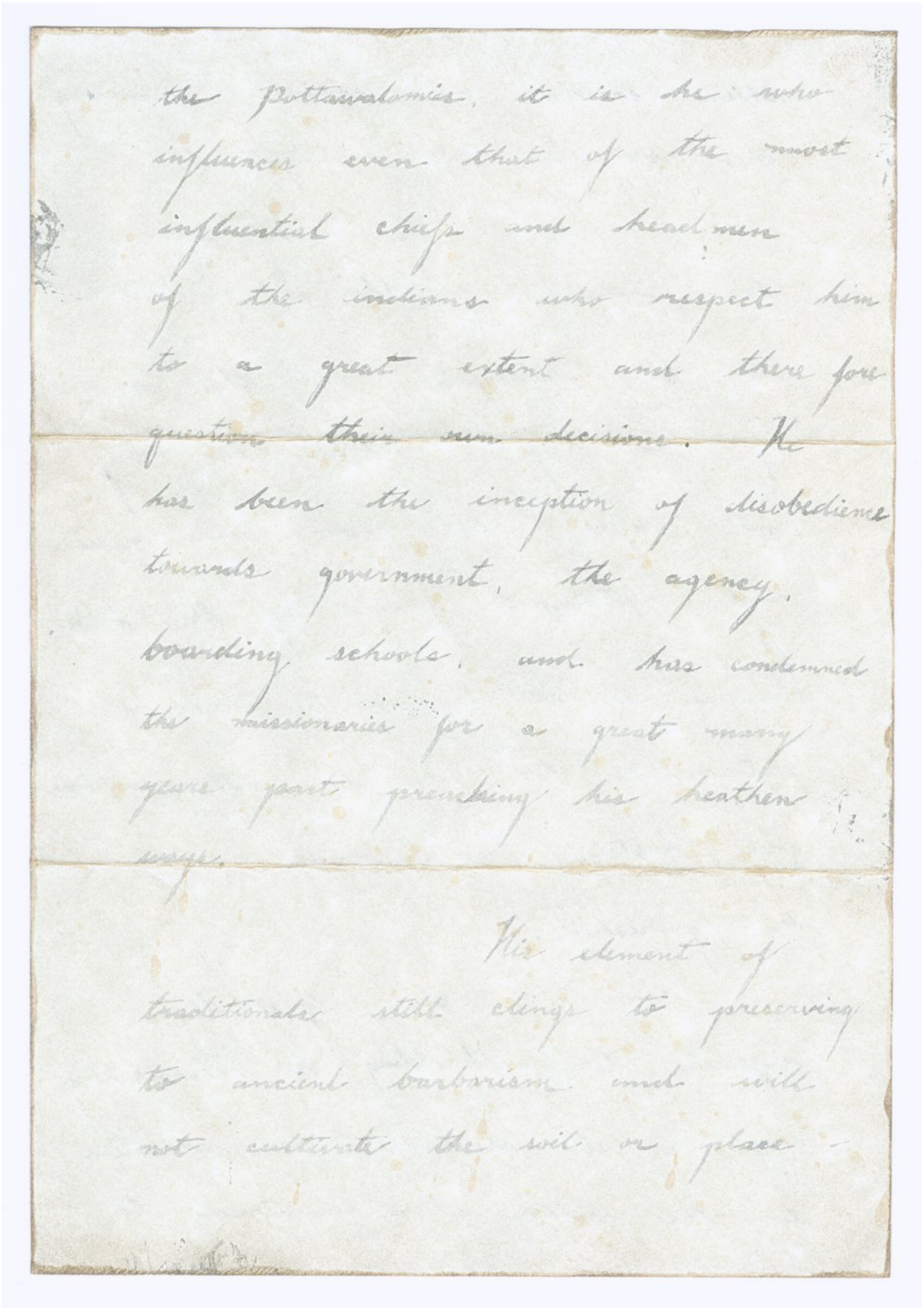


grown angry in years past in disputes over land granted. This anger appears to have been inherited by his sons who now cause trouble.

It was informed Wish ke gee amtyk was entitled land on Mill creek were he was known to have lived and led one hundred and fifty men women and children of the Prairie band.

It is of the utmost importance that a one Wish ke gee amtyk who continues his teachings and influence of encouraging the faith and ways of ancient days be paralyzed. He the Prairie band own the heart and spirited of -

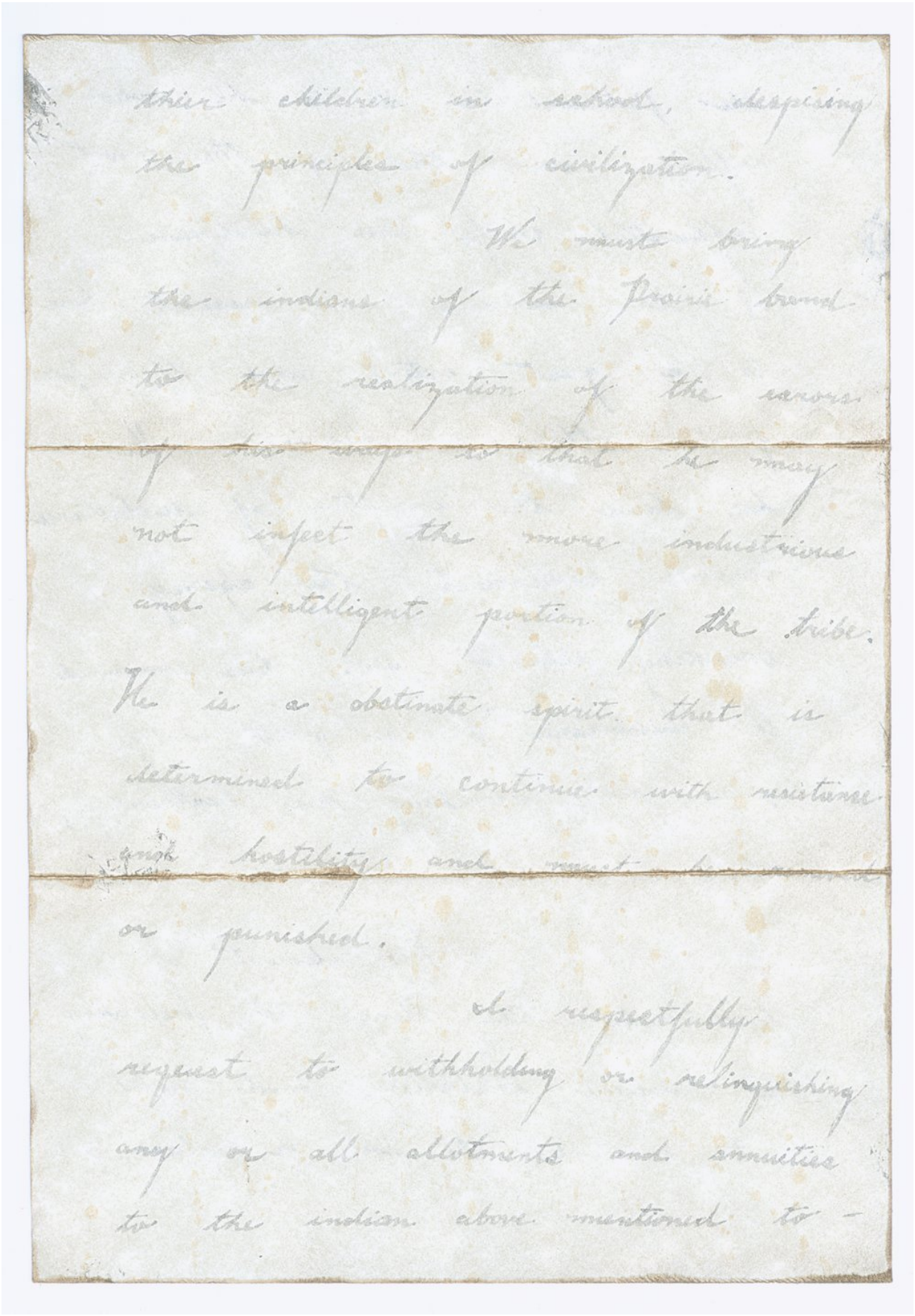
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the Pottawatomies, it is he who influences even that of the most influential chiefs and headmen of the indians who respect him to a great extent and therefore question their own decisions. He has been the inception of disobedience towards government, the agency, boarding schools, and has condemned the missionaries for a great many years past preaching his heathen ways.

His element of traditionals still clings to preserving to ancient barbarism and will not cultivate the soil or place

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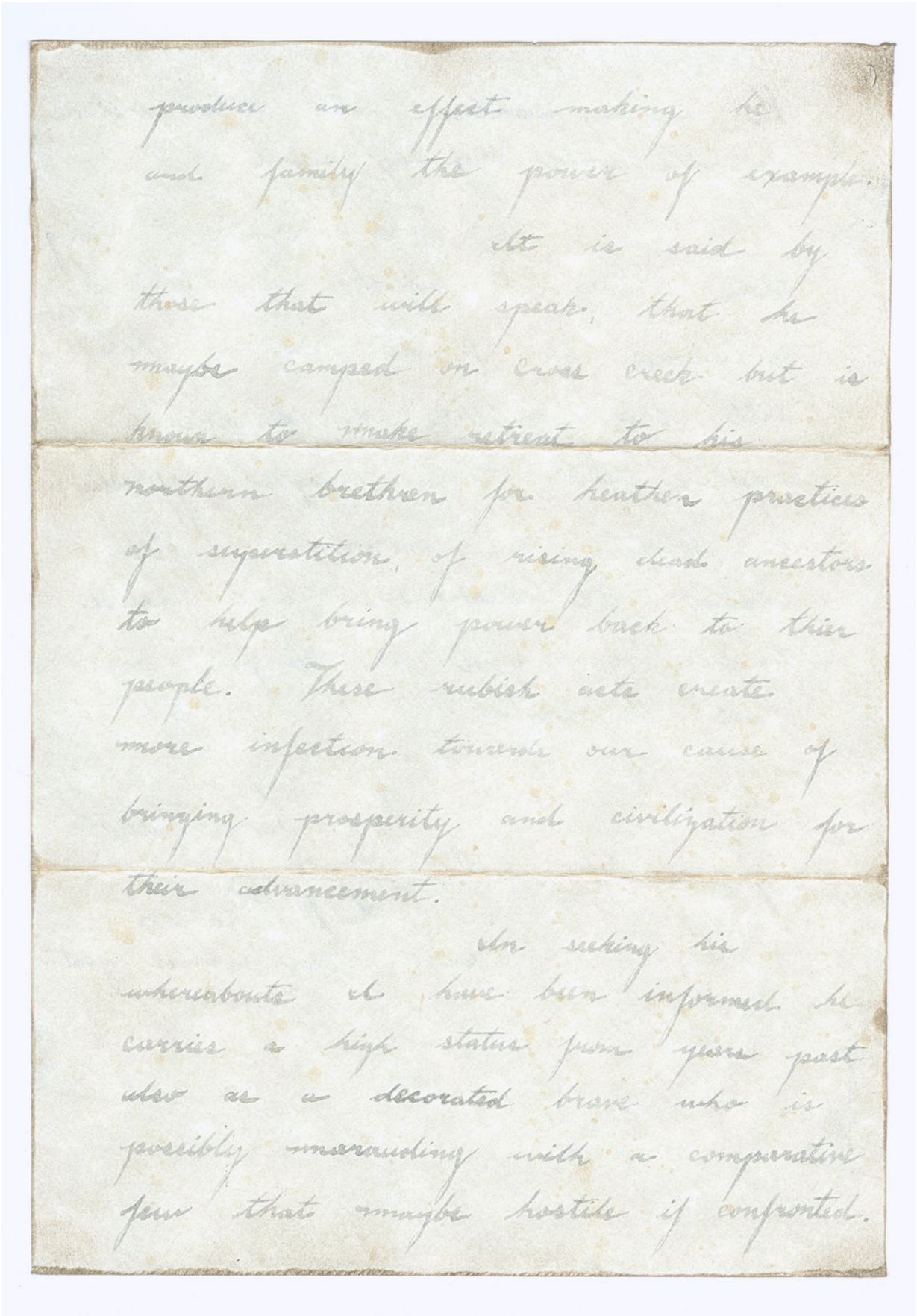


their children in school, despising the principles of civilization.

We must bring the indians of the Prairi bound to the realization of the errors of his ways so that he may not infect the more industrious and intelligent portion of the tribe. He is a obstinate spirit that is determined to continue with resistance & hostility and must be [illegible] or punished.

I respectfully request to withholding or relinquishing any or all allotments and annuities to the indian above mentioned to -

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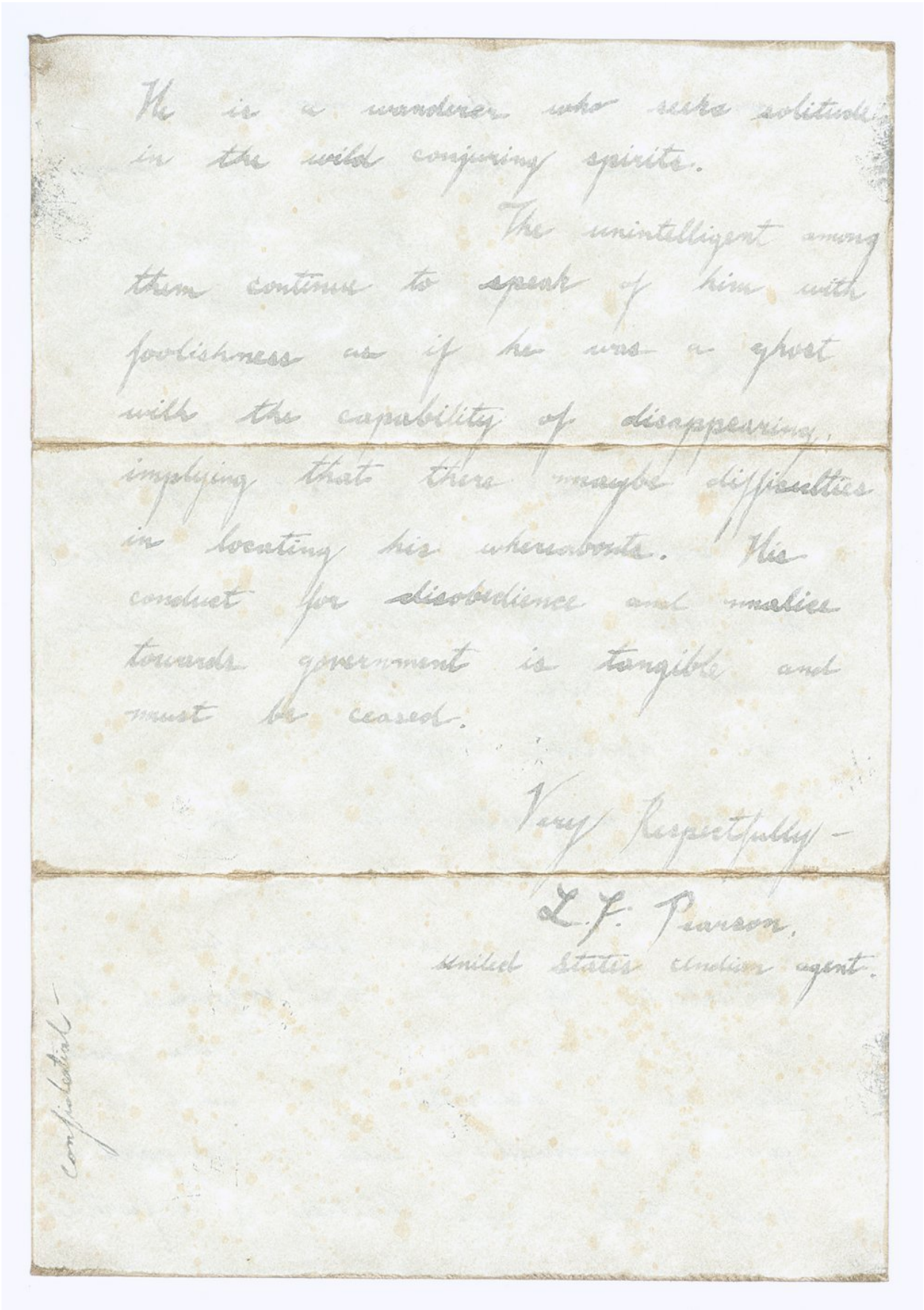


produce an effect making he
and family the power of example.

It is said by
these that will speak, that he
maybe camped on Cross creek but is
known to make retrent to his
northern brethren for heather practices
of superstition, of rising dead ancestors
to help bring power back to their
people. These rubish acts create
more infection towards our cause of
bringing prosperity and civilization for
their advancement.

In seeking his
whereabouts I have been informed he
carries a high status from years past
also as a decorated brave who is
possibly marauding with a comparative
few that maybe hostile if confronted.

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He is a wanderer who seeks solitude in the wild conjuring spirits.

The unintelligent among them continue to speak of him with foolishness as if he was a ghost with the capability of disappearing, implying that there maybe difficulties in locating his whereabouts. His conduct for disobedience and malice towards government is tangible and must be ceased.

Very Respectfully -

L. F. Pearson.
United States Indian agent.

Confidential -