

PRELIMINARY NOTES ON CLEBURNE AND KIRBYVILLE METEORITES

ABSTRACT

Two heretofore unrecorded Texas meteorites were brought to light in 1934 by the writer. The first was a 14 pound, 9 ounces iron, which had been found in 1907 by Chester Anderson and his father, Rufus Anderson, about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas. It is in approximate shape a low cone. Etching of a small polished area with acid reveals the usual criss-cross lines characteristic of the nickel-iron compounds in meteorites. In this case these lines are very narrow, about one-half millimeter wide. This probably indicates that the meteorite cannot be related to the old well-known Red River and Wichita County meteorites, found somewhere in this general region of Texas many years ago, as their internal structure was different (medium and coarse lines).

The other meteorite is a small but remarkably well preserved stone of 97.7 grams weight from Jasper County, Texas. It was seen to fall at about 3.30 p.m. on November 12, 1906, and fell at a point about 12 miles just east of south from Jasper, Texas, between a house and a barn, and within a few feet of some men standing nearby. "Bud" Morgan, who picked it up at the time, is no longer living, but witnesses say that he immediately placed it in a pan of water, and that it "fried". It is suggested that since the physiological sensations of heat and cold are easily confused, Morgan might have only thought the meteorite was hot, when it was really cold. The bubbling action was possibly the expulsion of gas from the meteorite's interior (replacement by water).

Four immediate witnesses of the fall and one man who was two miles to the west were interviewed. Those at the point of the fall insisted

on describing the sound as being like that of a buzzard dropping down, but another man possibly 100 feet away described it as a keen popping. No one saw any fireball or train, which suggests that a small meteorite might fall in the daytime without attendant visual phenomena.

The stone has a good black crust, well-marked front and rear sides, and the interior is a relatively hard white ground sprinkled with black particles. Several indications point to a low metallic content.

Both objects are now in the meteorite collection of the Texas Observers, amateur astronomers at Ft. Worth, Texas.