

## HASKELL, TEXAS, METEORITE

The following details were obtained on a trip July 3-4, 1948, by H. H. Morse and Oscar E. Monnig of FortWorth, Texas.

Clay Kimbrough, Sr., of Scotch descent, came here from Alabama and bought some land about July of 1906; he did not move on it till about Dec. of 1906, and knows that he did not find the meteorite the first year he worked the land, 1907. His best recollection is that he found it in 1909 or 1910. He was then living somewhat north of Haskell, where the meteorite was found; he has stayed in this region for the intervening 40 years except for a short interval at Rosebud, Texas. At 52 he married a girl of 23 and the family now lives about 5 miles southwest of Haskell.

The meteorite was found while he was plowing behind a team of horses that "got to scrap shooting" (sic) or jerking playfully. In anger, he pushed the plow point down to restrain the horses. As he did so, it struck a rock and pulled one horse back over the swingletree. Upon digging this rock out with a grubbing hoe, he claims he at once recognized it as a probable meteorite from its smooth, melted exterior ("crust") and the "holes in it" (thumb-marks), which impressed ~~xx~~ him as being deep and which he interpreted as places where the easier melted material had run out.

He was using a good span of horses, and was breaking sod with a 9" walking plow; he judged the meteorite was 6 or 7 inches deep (the top of it?).

Instead of taking it to the fence row, he claims that he left it nearby, just a few rows away, fearing that some one else might see it, recognize it for what it was, and take it away if he left it near a fence row. One or two years later, he was heading maize and had a slide handy. At that time he drug the meteorite on this slide or basket, not to the nearest fence row (I presume that would be the one to the east) but to a more distant one, two or three times as far away (off to the west or northwest?), perhaps as much as a mile distant. This was apparently all part of a cagey plan to keep the meteorite from being seen by too many people and away from the roads.

It was Kimbrough's recollection that the meteorite was found in the I & G N Survey ("International and Great Northern Railway"), which is joined on the north by the Jesse Gibson Survey. We did not check the records on this point, as we went to the exact place of find and marked it on the county road map. He said the farm was 860 yards "across" (E-W) and at various times said he was 250, 300 or 350 yards out in the field (to the west of the road) when he found the meteorite. He still owns 129 A. here.

He thinks the meteorite was a complete individual when he first found it, and says he at one time noticed a cracked sliver on one side; water got in this and froze it off. This piece was nowhere more than a half inch thick, thinner at its edges, and got lost. Is this the piece now obviously gone from the one broken side of the meteorite? At any rate, he watched for this lost piece and did re-discover it. He then put it on a board or shelf at the top of a back porch at the house, but some years later when he returned there he found this fragment had disappeared. We made a number of specific inquiries in the immediate neighborhood of find about this piece, and urged persons now living there or working the land to watch for it, but all to no avail.

The main meteorite itself lay on the "far side" fence row for some 3, 4 or 5 years before being taken to the house. Apparently the house to which both the main meteorite and the piece that cracked off it were ultimately taken is the one now marked "Mack Matthews" on the map.

Apparently Kimbrough had for some reason shown this meteorite to practically no one, perhaps thru sheer Scotch canniness, but more likely because in the early stages friends had scoffed at him. We therefore took him with us and spent a full day seeing people in the region of the find and telling them of the meteorite. It was carried in the car with us and shown to most of the people named on the map--to everyone we could find and contact within a three-mile circle of the place of find during the time we were there. We covered the area to the north of the meteorite pretty well, but were unable to work the territory south of the meteorite very much.

Jack Moore was seen. Leslie Cox, who married Kimbrough's wife's sister, and \_\_\_\_\_ Alsabrook, as well as Leslie Cox and R. L. Cox, his son, were missed or seen but briefly, Kimbrough insisting they either knew all about it or he would tell them; some were not at home. I think we likewise missed \_\_\_\_\_ Perren. We interviewed Charles Druessedow, R. F. Cothron, O. A. Rueffer, R. A. Bradley, Coy Tuggle, W. A. Dumas, J. W. McKinney.

We talked at length to Mack Matthews and an A. D. English visiting him and they took a great deal of interest. We interviewed C. G. Gary, Clyde Baty, Frank Spencer, W. W. Turnbow, Jap Wheeler, J. F. Hodgkin, Elbert B. (Buck) Calloway. We saw J. W. Brock but I think missed \_\_\_\_\_ Christian. We did talk to a Mexican, Guadalupe Gomez, who works on Mrs. Simmons' place (Christian is her son-in-law). We went to the M. H. Taylor and J. H. Crager residences but I think saw only one of them.

These are all indicated on the map. "Ab" denotes an abandoned house; those no longer there are crossed off with an x.

The meteorite point of find was at longitude  $99^{\circ} 43.9'$  W., latitude  $33^{\circ} 12.8'$  N.

Kimbrough thought the meteorite weighed about 80 pounds. I offered him \$80 for it the first day, but he said he wanted to be "tempted more". We let the matter drop till the next day when we were about to leave, when he again asked to be tempted further. He had read Nininger's article in The Saturday Evening Post and obviously wanted to dispose of the meteorite tho not apparently in great need of money. Finally he set his own price of \$150.00 and there was no budging him from it.

We took a simple bill of sale from him on a sheet of notebook paper (original to Nininger):

July 4, 1948.

In consideration of one hundred fifty and no?100 dollars (\$150.00) paid to me in cash by Oscar E. Monnig, I hereby transfer and sell to H. H. Nininger one stone meteorite of about 80 pounds weight found by me near Haskell, Texas.

(signed) Clay Kimbrough Sr.

These notes were typed from detailed original ones May 1, 1950.

The writer has long thought that the superficial areas of outcropping Quaternary geology in Texas would make good regions for finding old meteorites. There are some objections of climate and vegetation in regions of such surface geology along the Texas coast, and some of the West Texas regions of such geology are objectionable because of considerable sandy areas. Texas geologic maps, however, show a north-south series of "islands" of Quaternary of the Seymour formation in north-central Texas, extending from the Anson vicinity to the Quanah vicinity. Mr. Robert Brown and I had long thought this set of outcrops would be promising for meteorite work and had once conducted a brief survey in the region of Tuxedo in Jones County, near and in one of these "Quaternary islands", partly because Brown had seen a rock near there which he thought might be a meteorite (we never could re-locate it). It is of interest to note that the Haskell meteorite is apparently the first recorded recovery from this Seymour formation of the Quaternary in Texas.

This formation should be worked more. Much of it is pretty good land agriculturally and is much better "meteorite land" than the foreboding Permian country surrounding it.

Oscar E. Monnig,  
1010 Morningside Drive,  
Fort Worth 3, Texas

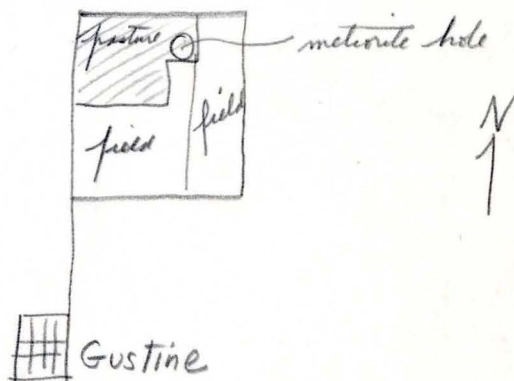
Original notes of the Haskell trip included the following just after the entry "lunch" and just before the name of Mack Matthews:

Miss Ella Royall of Moran, Texas, saw a large meteor that made the cows run away and lit up the entire countryside when she was a child. It hit near her and spewed?

After the name of A. D. English, is a set of notes indicating that he had a brother, J.C. English, who had a round piece (suspected meteorite) he sent to Harvard but which they returned; lives Rochester, New York?

Mack Matthews has a brother Sam Matthews living at Gustine and Roland Miller living at Gustine is said to have an 11 pound reddish smooth rock found by Mack Matthews in a hole as "big as this yard" on the Seago place one mile north of Gustine 7 years ago. It was "pocked" and much redder than the surrounding flint rocks. It was once sent off and identified (as a meteorite?)

The name of Lynn Pace occurs after this and just above C. G. Gary's but I don't recall him and his place is not indicated on the map.



Calloway told of a meteorite like melted coal run together which fell at a party one night (at Walter Acheson's house?) about 20 miles E of here in the Roberts neighborhood, about 1923 or sooner. Acheson is now dead.