

1958, June 17

Mr. J. E. Carter,
City Secretary,
Kaufman, Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter:

My friend of many years' standing, Mr. Iga Weatherly, who recently went into business in your city, kindly undertook to try to find out anything he could for me about a meteorite which is on record from your county. I am interested in that subject as a hobby.

The original meteorite and all the correspondence about it is in the hands of a lady in St. Louis whom I know, and I have seen all of this several times and am quite familiar with it. A brilliant fireball was seen the night of November 29, 1892, between 7 and 8 o'clock, and I understand thru Mr. Weatherly that you witnessed this.

This fireball also was seen by one J. F. Todd who was camped some 4 or 5 miles west of Kaufman, and apparently that is about where it was found. However, it is not clear who Todd was and whether he was the finder. He may have been an itinerant worker, a colored man or a sheep herder or ranch hand. I do not know his connection with Mr. J. J. Hill. Hill was renting some land or houses to one P. R. Randall of Lampasas, Texas, and Randall got the meteorite and sold it to the St. Louis man. From the letters, Randall apparently made a trip to Kaufman and interviewed the man who found the meteorite.

I would be interested in anything you can tell me about Todd or the actual finder, and also where the object was found as nearly as you know. I also understood that Hill's sister-in-law, a Mrs. Hatch, has some descendants in West Texas, and if you know any of their addresses I would appreciate them.

Yours sincerely,