

Notes on Kaufman, Texas, Meteorite.

Taken in January, 1957 from original correspondence in files of Mrs. Carl G. Hinrichs, 3101 Hawthorne Blvd., St. Louis 4, Mo.

A letter dated March 14, 1894 on letterhead of the District Court of Kaufman County, showing J. E. Dillard as Judge of the 40th District Court and J. T. Walker as District Clerk, is addressed to F. R. Ramsdell of Lampasas, Texas, and signed by J. J. Hill. Hill tells of a meteor that fell November 29, 1892 just after nightfall, between 7 and 8. It seems to have been witnessed by J. F. Todd who was camped 4 or 5 miles west of town. Hill states he did not see the meteor, but his colored man did. As he described it, it appeared some 60° from the horizon in a southerly direction and passed in a N. W. direction and disappeared about N. W. from town. Todd is said to have seen two (meteors) of great brilliancy the same night.

A letter of April 5, 1894 on the letterhead of J. A. and F. R. Ramsdell (of Lampasas) to Dr. Gustav Hinrichs of St. Louis acknowledges "yours of the 2nd", and is signed by F. R. Ramsdell. He states he would like to have a $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick piece or section from the center of the meteorite and the broken piece (which he had apparently sent to Hinrichs) as well as another piece to give to the University of Texas. He asks \$50 for the rest, and suggests the money be sent directly to his daughter Miss Dell Ramsdell at Linden, Indiana. He mentions that he cannot learn anything further about another meteorite which he had apparently previously reported and had some hopes of locating.

A letter of April 9, 1894 from Gustav Hinrichs to Dr. F. R. Ramsdell of Lampasas, Texas, accepts the offer of sale for \$50 but Hinrichs says he must keep the piece that had been sent to him. He speaks of fusing up one for analysis but says he has a piece showing the white crust still left in his possession. It seems that Hinrichs already had the main mass, as he complains that in shipment the white crust of the entire stone suffered greatly. Hinrichs asks how long the stone had been exposed to the weather, guessing a week. He refers to "that shepherd" as the finder (I presume Todd), and wants to know which side was down in the ground, the black or the white.

A letter of April 12, 1894 from F. R. Ramsdell to Gustav Hinrichs (mail service was pretty good in those days). Ramsdell wants two specimens, one for his cabinet and for the University of Texas. He hopes to visit the place where the stone fell and get facts. He thinks it lay about 5 weeks with dark side down. He thinks it was all white at first and that the damp ground colored one side.

Letter of June 5, 1894 from F. R. Ramsdell to Gustav Hinrichs. "I saw the man today who found the meteorite and he says the white surface of it was embedded in the ground and he thinks the action

of the earth and water changed its color. This is just the opposite of what I thought. But he is certain that the white side was down. He says it is quite sure it is the stone that produced the light he saw the last of November before it was found. I have nothing additional in evidence". The last remark is a reply to a plea Hinrichs had made for further letters like that from (Judge?) Hill verifying the fall, date, etc.

The main mass perhaps shows a little slickensiding on one broken area, and there is a heavy vein in one side. There are some breaks along a vein in the top of the stone perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. "Side" and "top" here are not significant, referring merely to the way it lay on the table, with the broken side down.