

1957, Feb. 12.

Dear Dr. Henderson:

I have written Mrs. Hinrichs and asked permission for you to slice the piece and keep part; I'll advise you as quickly as I hear from her.

I had hinted to her in St. Louis that I thought the crust was limestone and the meteorite actually an old one, not freshly fallen from the November, 1892 fireball, and I confirmed these facts to her. She may not like to see her husband and father-in-law thus refuted, but I don't think it will make her unfavorably disposed towards us.

If she turns me down, she has a couple of other smaller pieces from this stone as I recall, and I'll try to angle one of them out of her for you. After, lo, these 25 years I haven't got a gram of it.

From the enclosed notes, I think we can say that the meteorite was found by one J. F. Todd some 4 or 5 miles west of Kaufman, Texas (perhaps a few miles away from there, to the north or west) some 5 weeks (or perhaps somewhat longer) after the passage of a brilliant meteor on the early evening of November 29, 1892. Therefore we might date the find as early 1893. The parties concerned at the time seem definitely to have connected it with the fireball, but the evidence is all against any connection except a coincidence.

In 1943 I traced a Nellie B. Ramsdell (daughter) to 609 N. Eola Drive, Orlando, Florida, and she seemed to think there might be a piece of the meteorite in specimens they had left from her father's collection; I even sent her a magnet to help her pick it out, but suddenly she stopped writing in March, 1943. Todd seems to have been an itinerant country worker and I doubt if he could be traced or if it would be worth the trouble.

I didn't quite get the significance of your admonition to work hard on this find. The evidence is excellent that it was found near Kaufman as described. Is there anything unusual about Tadjera. What are the "other stones" that have similar properties that you speak of--some more you hope I'll find?!!!

Sincerely,