

1957, May 28

Miss Nellie Ramsdell,
609 N. Eola Drive,
Orlando, Florida.

Dear Miss Ramsdell:

Thank you for again answering me about the matter of the meteorite. I don't recall whether you ever returned the magnet I sent, but that is not material as it was not valuable.

I do not have any piece of the meteorite, but have seen the main mass and several smaller pieces which are in a private collection in St. Louis. I was never able to persuade that collector to let me have any, and he has died in the intervening years, but his widow did at my suggestion donate a small fragment to the United States National Museum. The main piece weighed about 50 pounds, and is still substantially intact.

It was originally found in 1892 about 4 or 5 miles west of Kaufman, Texas, not too far from where I live in northern Texas. A man named J. F. Todd seems to have discovered it, and thought it had fallen from a bright fireball he saw, but actually it turned out to be an old meteorite that had probably been there many years.

In some way a Mr. J. J. Hill of Kaufman got it, and he in turn sent it to Mr. F. R. Ramsdell of Lampasas. I never knew just what the relation between these two men was. Did Mr. Hill perhaps rent some land from Mr. Ramsdell, or vice versa? I know the Mr. Ramsdell of Lampasas was quite a collector, and if you know how he happened to get the stone or whether he owned the land near Kaufman on which it fell, I would appreciate the facts.

Sincerely yours,