

FORMERLY OF HARVEY.

J. C. Drollinger, Formerly of Macon Township, Discovers a Meteor.

The following story in yesterday's Wichita Beacon is told on a farmer, who was formerly of Macon township:

J. C. Drollinger made a deposit in the Fourth National bank yesterday that was neither gold, silver, treasury notes nor greenbacks. It was a meteor or, at least, what is said to be one. It is of conical shape and composed of about a million fragments brought together by some cohesive influence. It is of a pale color and, in texture, has something of the appearance of a honey comb.

"Feel the heft of it?" asked Mr. Drollinger of a Beacon reporter. It weighs about 186 pounds and it takes a stout man to lift it.

Mr. Drollinger lives five and one-half miles southeast of town, in Minneha township.

"About three years ago," he said, "my boy who was then 9 years of age, said that in the middle of the night he was startled by having his room lighted up with noonday brightness. He then heard a noise like thunder and a fearful thud, and everything became dark again. He told us the next morning and he is a very truthful boy."

"The field near the house was then in oats. It was an old field that had been cultivated for twenty years. The next time I went to plow it, the plow struck a rock. I thought it was very strange that I never before struck a rock in that place and that there was none to be seen or found anywhere else. It had sunk into the ground about two feet and was covered by about four inches of black dirt. I dug it up and somebody told me that it was a meteor. I think it is myself, for when the weather is changeable it changes its color and when a streak of black appears on it, rain is sure to follow."

Most meteors contain metallic iron, but this one does not seem to have any metallic substance.

The light of a meteor can be seen a distance of 1,000 miles in diameter, and its detonation sounds like an earthquake, although, as a matter of fact, it may not weigh more than a few ounces. The 900 meteors gathered up at Pultush do not average more than two ounces. These, of course, belonged to a large body that went to pieces while traveling through thick atmosphere.

Mr. Drollinger's meteors might have been a similar one that failed to burst.

He will send it to the Smithsonian institute in Washington, and if it is genuine he would undoubtedly get a good price for it.