

Image of snow crystals obtained using low temperature scanning electron microscopy at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in the Electron Microscopy Unit. (Courtesy USDA/Scanning Electron Microscopy Unit, Beltsville, Maryland.)



Wilson A. Bentley. A self-educated farmer, Bentley attracted world attention with his pioneering work in the area of photomicrography, most notably his extensive work with snow crystals (commonly known as snowflakes). By adapting a microscope to a bellows camera, and years of trial and error, he became the first person to photograph a single snow crystal in 1885. (Courtesy Jericho Historical Society.)

