Meet Mister Snowflake

A Vermont farmer named Wilson “Snowflake” Bentley (1865 – 1931) became the first person to study snowflakes scientifically. He began trying to photograph individual flakes when he was just 15. It took him years to figure out how to capture them using a microscope and a camera. Bentley caught his flakes on velvet and then gently smoothed them with a feather.

SHIP SHAPE

A snowflake’s shape depends on the temperature & humidity of the cloud in which it forms. All snowflakes have six sides and come in two main categories: columnar and platelike. A type of platelike snowflake, called a dendrite, is the most common.

SNOWFLAKE MATCH-UP

Here are eight of Wilson Bentley’s snowflakes. Two of the snowflakes are identical. Circle the two snowflakes that match.