



Martha Bankson Lyle

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Anders Bengtsson

Anders Bengtsson came from Sweden in 1656, at the age of 16, to settle near the Schuylkill River in Wicacoa Parish in Pennsylvania. He married Gertrude Rambo.

"The friendship of the Indians to the Swedes continued equally strong even after the change of government. The proof of this was given in the year 1656, March 24, when the Swedish ship Mercury came up into the river without knowing that the country was under a foreign government. The Swedish preacher Matthias was in this ship together with Anders Bengtson, a native of Stockholm, who was still living in the year 1703, when he gave with his own mouth this narrative: . . . [MORE](#)

Sarah Rodgers Rousseau Espy Diary, 1859-1868

Something New!

[Succession Papers regarding the deaths of James and Hiram Horace Rousseau from Bienville Parish Court Records!](#)

Sarah Rodgers Rousseau was the sister of my g-g-grandmother, Diana Rousseau Shackelford. Diana's daughter, Berenice, was raised in the home of Sarah and Thomas Espy from the age of three, when Diana died. Berenice married Frank Reuben Bankson. Sarah Rousseau and Thomas Espy owned a warehouse in Cherokee County prior to the Civil War. The diary describes the lives of the family, relatives, neighbors, and friends during the period of Mr. Espy's death, the

January 1867

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1. New Years Day. The ground covered with snow. Dick came in early and shocked us much with the news of the death of H. H. Rudd, our neighbors oldest son. Soon Mr. Wise came and confirmed the account. It seems that in getting out of bed this morning he fell in a spasm and died immediately. I went down and remained all day there. The family are greatly distressed. He has had a heart-disease for some years but has been for some time looking well. Dick left today for Tenn. He wished to try his fortune also there it seems. He may do better, but I doubt it. B. sat up tonight at Mr. Rudd's.
2. Snow again last night; I went to Mr. R.'s again to assist in preparing the corpse for burial, Two o'clock is the hour, but the coffin was not brought in time and it is delayed till tomorrow. Very cold day.
3. Cloudy snowy day; B. and V. went to the burial; T. came by to dinner; snow falling fast, but does not lie long.
4. Still cloudy; I hardly ever knew such a long spell of bad weather; helping B. make a plaid dress.
5. Still cold but seems like clearing off; I went to Yellow Creek; few there; they took up Mrs. Richardson's and several other cases but continued them to the next conference.
6. 1st sabbath. Clear cold day; B. went to church; John and family came up. Mr. Wilder came to dinner; I went with John and Sis as far as Mr. Rudd's; they are still in very deep grief.
7. Still cold; warped and drew in a web of flannel for Virginia.
8. Cold; very busy for I have a great deal to accomplish in a short time.
9. Still cold; a letter from M.; he is well and has spent the Christmas at his Aunt's; he has finished shelling the corn to fetch home. I went to Hale's this evening and purchased a one-horse turning-plow at \$7.
10. Cold; finished and mailed a letter to Marcellus; called at Mr. Patterson's.
11. Very busy weaving; T. and family dined here.
12. Rainy; finished the flannel.
13. 2nd. Sabbath. Cold and cloudy; B. and J. went down to John's; all well there; we were in the night getting home and found the place deserted; Virgil thinking we were not coming had gone over to Thomas's.
14. Warm, and showery; T. got the wagon this morning and went to Cedar Bluff to move Kate Reeves down. I went over there this evening; got wet and staid all night. T. and Kate arrived at night- fall.
15. Clear and cold; preparing thread for the loom.
16. Very cold; Virginia came this morning for a few moments. Warped and drew in our thread. V. went down to John's who is to go with him among B.'s subscribers and collect payment in such things as they have to share. Turning warmer.
17. Turned cold again last night; V. brought thirteen bushels of fine potatoes. It is so cold I fear they will spoil. This climate is variable verily.
18. Extremely cold.
19. Still very cold; V. went to T.'s tonight; more moderate.
20. 3rd Sabbath. The deepest snow on the ground this morning I have ever seen in this country; it is about 4 inches deep in level places.
21. Still very cold; Dick returned from Tenn. today; does not like that country.
22. Very cold; a letter tonight to B. and myself from M. he writes he is well except a cold. He had not received the

Marcellus
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