

On this day in Alaska history

June 5-6, 1914

Survey party heads to Ship Creek.

The Kuskokwim Reconnaissance government survey party along with other A.E.C. surveyors, embarked from Seattle on **June 5th and 6th, 1914**, on two steamers, the *Admiral Sampson* and the *Northwestern*. They landed at Ship Creek, Cook Inlet, to begin surveying a railroad to Fairbanks. The camp they established later became the town of Anchorage. The steamers reached Ship Creek on June 15, 1914.

Civil engineer and Seattle resident James Lennox McPherson led a seven man and twenty packhorse expedition on the survey across interior Alaska. Under difficult conditions during the summer months when travel meant crossing large wetland areas and rivers swollen with rain, McPherson undertook the survey along the Government Winter Trail, customarily traversed during the winter months by dog sled. The route McPherson surveyed was never developed as a branch railroad, but it includes a large section of the National Historic Iditarod Trail.

Read more: <https://content.lib.washington.edu/alaskawcanadaweb/trails.html>