In 1827, Parry undertook one of the first expeditions specifically aimed at reaching the North Pole. He fell far short, but by then had become a celebrity - the first Arctic star but hardly the last. In the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, those who sailed, hiked, or flew north were some of the world’s most celebrated heroes. The isolation, mystery, and deadliness of this region added to the mystique surrounding those who survived their adventures here. The first voyages north were mainly for practical reasons, to find new northerly shipping routes from the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. Those who survived their adventures here were going to paddle across lakes. They were going to portage the canoes between the campsites. He was just a kid. How was he supposed to carry a canoe? Then he sat down and listened. It came to him. He was going to paddle across lakes. He was going to portage the canoes between the campsites. He was just a kid. How was he supposed to carry a canoe? Then he sat down and listened. It came to him.

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