



Newfoundland
Dog River
exp. with
skins, etc.
boots

Hudson River Day Line
Deerhouse St
New York
Nov. 6, 1927

Byrd Antarctic Expedition
9 Brimmer Street
Boston, Mass.

My Dear Comm. Byrd,

I received your letter of September 27 inst. and was glad to know that you have added my name to the list of those who are volunteering for to go with you on your expedition.

I know you are tired of reading letters from people who want to be included in this expedition, but to let you know I am really interested and anxious to go with you I am writing again.

I know you are looking for men who are reliable, and men who you really can trust in the face of all hardships and under all circumstances that may be theirs on this Antarctic Expedition. I am one of them. I am made of real stuff and you will believe my statement having known where I came from. Was born and brought up in the northern peninsula of Newfoundland. I can send you a recommendation from the Hudson River Day Line that will prove my statement to you since working here and I also can give you reference from people in Newfoundland where I came from, who will back my statement there.

I have knocked around quiet a bit in Newfoundland before I came to this country in 1924. My chief occupations there were fishing and sailing in the summer and fall. In the winter and spring, when everything were frozen up with snow and ice, I was driving dogs, and I can truthfully say I well know my business in either one of these trades which I have been engaged. I am also use to skin-boots and snow-shoes, which all dog-drivers wear. I have done some hunting, as you know we get the hair seal, walrus, polar bear and other Arctic animals in Newfoundland.

I am taking a course now in Aeronautics - the science of aerial navigation from the American school of Aviation in Chicago, which I am sure would be of great advantage to me if I went with you.

You also know the Macmillan Expedition last summer which were exploring Greenland

and many northern places of that region were made up of Newfoundlanders under the supervision of Captain Robert Bartlett who was also born in Newfoundland.

Comm. Byrd you will find the most of us fellows who have knocked ~~down~~ any, robust and hearty men when set to do a task will do it "do or die" is the old saying, but it is really true.

However, they say proving the meat is eating it and proving me, I would be seeing me and putting me to the test. So if you think I will be of any service to you out of all I have told you, and that you have any interest in me whatsoever, if you will make an appointment somewhere in Boston, New York or elsewhere, at such a date, I will surely come and see you and have you look me over.

I hope you will consider me for service on your expedition and I will prove to you I am a real man in every respect.

I remain

At Your Service

Jacob Cursey.

(In pencil, left upper corner:
Newfoundland
Dog Driver
Experience with snow shoes, skin, etc. boots)

Hudson River Day Line
Desbrosses St.
New York
Nov. 6, 1927

Byrd Antarctic Expeditions
9 Brimmer St.
Boston, Mass.

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At Your Service

Jacob Bursey

D. D. D.

Hudson River Day Line^x
Dechrooses St. Pier
New York
Aug. 10, 1927

Commander Richard E. Byrd
Navy Department
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir;

I saw in the newspaper
of your plans to lead an expedition to
the South Pole, which has interested me very
much, and as I am an ambitious young
fellow and full of adventure, I would
like to offer myself as one of your expedition.

I was born and lived just about
all my life in the northern part of
Newfoundland and is well used to the
cold weather, snow and ice. And is an
expert dog driver. for I have driven
dogs in all sorts of weather for twelve
years, and I am now twenty-four years
old, and weigh 165 pounds, and is healthy
and strong.

I see you have postponed your expedition
until 1928, so if you are looking for dogs
and Komatiks, the kind we work in Newfound-
land, I can be of great help to you
in securing them for your expedition.

If you wanted me Commander Byrd, I can secure my own teen of dogs in Newfoundland, ^{and} make the whole outfit necessary for them.

If you are looking for dog food I will be able to get some of that for you, that is seal meat which we consider the very best for dogs.

I am a friend of Dr. Greenfell's who has been working in the northern part of Newfoundland for many years, and no doubt but you have heard about him.

If it is possible sometime for me to see you and talk to you, I would be only too glad to do it. Maybe you can arranged it sometime when you are coming to New York.

I am very much interested Commander Byrd and would like to talk to you personally. I could explain all.

Hoping to hear from you.

Respectfully yours
Jacob Cursey.

Hudson River Day Line
Desbrosses St. Pier
New York
Aug. 10, 1927

Commander Richard E. Byrd
Navy Department
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I saw in the newspaper of your plans to lead an expedition to the South Pole, which has interested my very much, and as I am an ambitious young fellow and full of adventure I would like to offer myself as one of your expedition.

I was born and lived just about all my life in the northern part of Newfoundland and is well used to the cold weather, snow and ice, and is an expert dog driver. For I have driven dogs in all sorts of weather for twelve years, and I am now twenty-four years old, and weigh 165 pounds, and is healthy and strong.

I see you have postponed your expedition until 1928, so if you are looking for dogs and Komatiks, the kinds we work in Newfoundland, I can be of great help to your securing them for you expedition.

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Hoping to hear from you.

Respectfully Yours

Jacob Bursey

entant: 2.25

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I see by the Newspapers that you are making plans for an expedition to the South Pole. and it has interested me very much, and I would like to offer myself to go with you.

I was born and lived all my life in the Northern part of Newfoundland and is well acquainted with cold weather.

I see by the papers that you will have to use dogs and dogsleds in connection with your work. and I would offer myself as a expert dog driver.

11 I also could be help to you on the ship or at anything in connection with the water, because I am a good seaman. I have had good experience on the water.

I am willing to become your helper in anything you undertake and will remain faithful to you to the finish.

I am of a willing spirit and a grim
~~the~~ determination to fight to the end.

I am 24 years old and weighs 162 pounds. I am healthy and strong.

I am working as ticket Agent here for the Hudson River Day Line.

I pray and trust that this letter may be a starting point for me as one of your expedition, and that I may soon become one of them.

I am willing to do anything that you sign me to do.

Sincerely yours
Jacob Pursey.

Hudson River Day Line
Desbrosses St. Pier
New York City
Aug. 2, 1927

Commander Richard E. Byrd.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I see by the newspapers that you are making plans for an expedition to the South Pole and it has interested me very much, and I would like to offer myself to go with you.

I was born and lived all my life in the northern part of Newfoundland and is well acquainted with cold weather.

I see by the papers that you will have to use dogs and dogsleds in connection with your work, and I would offer myself as a expert dog driver.

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Sincerely Yours

Jacob Bursey

↓
BURSEY, JACOB. 24, Seaman and dog man. St. Lunaire,
St. Bark's Dist. Newfoundland. Born at St. Lunaire, Newfound-
land, September 20, 1904. Single, nearest relation being his
mother, Mrs. William Bursey of St. Lunaire, St. Bark's District,
Newfoundland.

Height, 5 feet, 6 inches. Weight, 155 pounds. Hazel
eyes, black hair, ruddy complexion. Scars on forehead.

Protestant. Grammar, High School and college
education.

~~3141~~
~~Washing Square South~~
~~Marion Bay Newfoundland~~

Bursey - ^{Seaman}Logman

The following information is necessary in compiling permanent records of the expedition and for use in releasing newspaper and magazine articles. Please mark as "confidential" any statements you do not desire to be given out of the office.

NAME BURSEY Jacob Bursey

ADDRESS St. Lunaine STREET *** St. Bar's Dist. CITY Newfoundland STATE

AGE* 24 NATIONALITY _____

PLACE OF BIRTH St. Lunaine CITY St. Bar's Dist. STATE Newfoundland

DATE OF BIRTH Sept. 20, 1902

MARRIED OR SINGLE Single

NEAREST RELATION Mrs Wm. J. Bursey KINSHIP Mother

ADDRESS*** St. Lunaine STREET St. Bar's CITY Newfoundland STATE

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

HEIGHT 5' 8 1/2" FEET 6" INCHES

WEIGHT 155 POUNDS

COLOR OF EYES Hazel COLOR OF HAIR Black

COMPLEXION Ruby

PROMINENT MARKS AND SCARS Chicken pox marks forehead

HAVE YOU EVER HAD MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE* None

BRANCH _____

APPROXIMATE PERIOD _____

LENGTH OF SERVICE _____

HIGHEST RANK OR RATING ATTAINED _____

ARE YOU NOW A MEMBER OF THE ARMY, NAVY OR MARINE CORPS No.

IF SO GIVE COMPANY, DIVISION OR REGIMENT*** _____

TRADE OR PROFESSION _____

IN WHAT OTHERS HAVE YOU A WORKING KNOWLEDGE _____

RELIGION Protestant

EDUCATION Two years College

GRAMMAR SCHOOL _____

HIGH SCHOOL _____

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY _____ DEGREES _____

WERE YOU A MEMBER OF COMMANDER BYRD'S NORTH POLE EXPEDITION No

IN WHAT OTHER SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION _____

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS _____

WHAT FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS DO YOU BELONG TO _____

WHAT OTHER CLUBS OR ORGANIZATIONS _____

DID YOU EVER SERVE WITH COMMANDER BYRD IN THE NAVY _____

WHEN AND WHERE _____