



## Ernest de Koven Leffingwell

1875–1971

Acting independently, polar explorer Ernest Leffingwell sailed to Alaska in 1906 and spent nine summers and six winters along the Arctic coast using small boats and dog teams to support his scientific expeditions. Remnants from his ice-crushed wooden ship were salvaged to build structures on Flaxman Island as a base of operations through 1914. The Camp was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1978. Leffingwell's *The Canning River Region, Northern Alaska*, was among the first scientific papers to describe permafrost, name many northern Alaska rock formations, and accurately predict the oil potential of the North Slope. Highly decorated by various societies, multiple geographic features in Alaska, Canada, and Greenland are named for him.

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