

HISTORIC Andrew Berg *HOMESTEAD CABIN*



Smithsonian museum photo 1938

The *Homestead Cabin* built by Andrew Berg in 1935 represents an exceptional example of historic log craftsmanship.

Andrew Berg

Andrew was born "Anders Berg" on October 16, 1869 to a Swedish family living in Finland. In 1887, at the age of seventeen, he immigrated to America.

In 1888, he arrived to Alaska, where he built a cabin in the village of Kenai. To earn a livelihood he trapped furs and fished for the Alaska Packers Association.



Andrew Berg

Andrew was renowned as the most powerful man on the Kenai Peninsula. He stood six feet two inches tall and weighed 235 pounds.

Big Game Guide

In 1898, Andrew Berg's began his big game guiding career when he guided Dall DeWeese, a wealthy entrepreneur and hunter from Colorado.



Dall DeWeese

In the years to follow, he guided hunters from all over the world for moose, Dall Sheep and brown bear.

Berg served as a guide for many trophy hunting parties and hunted wildlife specimens for museums including the Smithsonian.

In 1902, Andrew built a cabin on the northeast shore of Tustumena Lake which he called his *Home Cabin* and where he lived for the next 37 years.

In 1902, when the Alaska Territory began licensing game guides, Andrew Berg obtained the first guide badge and license #1.

Game Warden

Andrew was appointed as a Game Warden from 1920-21 and held the post in Kenai, Alaska. He patrolled the Kenai Peninsula by foot and dog team, enforcing game laws with common sense.

March 6, 1921 Hon Tomas Riggs, Jr. Governor of Alaska Dear Sir; since making the last report I wish to submit the following. I went to Kussioloff I found that the Indians have just killed a moose, but upon examining their food supply I decided that they needed it. -Andrew Berg

After a short career as a game warden, Andrew returned to his *Home Cabin* on Tustumena Lake and continued guiding, fishing, trapping, and mining.



Home Cabin – Built in 1902 on Tustumena Lake, Berg lived here for over three decades. This cabin has been carefully restored and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. – Photo circa 1960's.

From 1924 to 1936 Andrew worked summers for the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries as a Stream Guard and Special Warden

1938 Annual Report - A daily patrol from a base at Kenai this patrol was carried on by Andrew Berg, a resident of

Kenai Village and Tustumena lake who furnished his own dory and motor for the work. In addition to this patrol Mr. Berg also collected scale samples taking from Red Salmon in the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers. Andrew Stream Guard July 1 to Aug 25 Kenai and Kasiloff - \$336.00

STORY THROUGH HIS JOURNALS

Wednesday December 28th 1921 - Snow shoing from Kenai to Kussioloff may be fun for som but when you have to go up river three or four miles & brecking in a foot of loose snow making about eighteen miles it feels to me like hard work



Tustumena Lake – Where Andrew lived from 1902 - 1939

20th Wednesday December 20th 1922 - Got up early on account of setting batter for making bread after I had breckfast I went up the creek to look over the traps when I came back I had dough everywhere I had the tub hanging from the beams & the stuff spilled itself over stove and all it could reach. I felt like cursing but I decided it would'nt help any & here was none to hear (No fun in it if you cant cus som one)

(November 1930) Tuesday 25 - shot three squirrels to day they comence to do mischif cut up two all wool union underwear & this morning they have destroyed a whole roll of toilet paper for wich three of them payed the supream penalty

HOMESTEAD CABIN

When Andrew was 65 years old he began work on a "new" cabin, the Homestead Cabin, on the northwest side of Tustumena Lake. Journal entries of this work –

Sunday 21, (April 1935) working at building new cabbin got the foundation squared.

Saturday 14 1936 I put in at digging cellar under new cabin put in floor & windows covered celing with moss 28 went acrost country to cabins of Funy River just returned from that trip saw tom & Pete Kalning on way up

Thursday 15 (1937) Started early for Camp Friman have been down there clearing land & finishing cabin

Four years after building the Homestead Cabin Andrew's health declined and he was brought to Anchorage by airplane where he passed away on March 1, 1939.

In 2000, the Homestead Cabin on Tustumena Lake was carefully dismantled and restored adjacent to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters.



Youth Conservation enrollees dismantling the homestead cabin for boat transport from Tustumena Lake to Soldotna.