

Sammamish Remembers its Roots...

Part 2 of 4 Utility Box Wrap

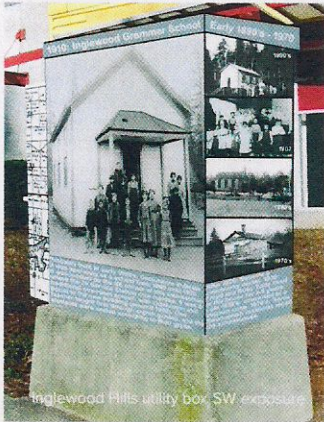
By Claradell Shedd - Arts Commissioner



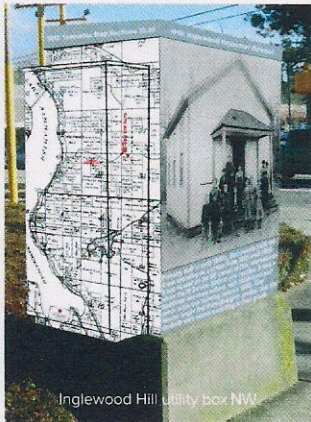
Claradell Shedd

Our modern day Sammamish began creating roots for our community approximately 163 years ago with the 1855 Point Elliott Treaty In the Washington Territory. East Coast residents made their treks toward the unexplored and uncharted West Coast, lured by the Gold Rush in California (1948-1855) and the Federal Homestead Act of 1862 (signed into law by Abraham Lincoln on May 20, 1862). The Homestead Acts were several laws in the United States by which an applicant could acquire ownership of government land or the public domain, typically called a "homestead." In all, more than 270 million acres of public land, or nearly 10% of the total area of the U.S., was given away free to 1.6 million homesteaders; most of the homesteads were west of the Mississippi.

Families made the covered wagon arduous journey via the Oregon Trail. Those settling in California and Oregon extended their migration to enter our present Washington State. Claimants (adult heads of families) were required to "improve" the plot by building a dwelling and cultivating the land, most often comprised of 160 acres of surveyed public land. After five years on the land, the original filer was entitled to the property, free and clear, except for a small registration fee. Title could also be acquired after only a six-month residency and minor improvements, provided the claimant paid the government \$1.25 per acre.

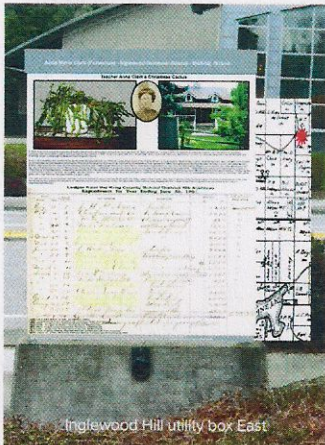


Inglewood Hills utility box SW exposure



Inglewood Hill utility box NW

Clark (who was paid \$60/month as a teacher). The school was probably built in early 1890's. It was operating as a school from 1895 until 1920.



Inglewood Hill utility box East

It was located on the SE corner of this intersection where the 76 Service Station now resides. It was a traditional one-room school, with cloakroom and porch in the new building (around 1900).

One teacher taught first through eighth grades, and the students were seated according to their grade.

• **South exposure:** Inglewood Grammar School from top to bottom: 1890's, 1902, 1960's, 1970's.

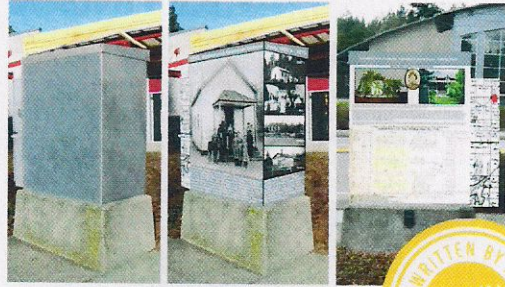
After 1920: Became a community center. 1930: Floyd and Ruby Eddy lived in the house for 4-5 years. Late 1930's: Converted to a chicken coop. 1970's: Some Sammamish residents recall the schoolhouse."

• **East exposure:** Top: Story of Teacher Anna Clark's Christmas Cactus with qr bar code linking back to story of the Clark homestead built across the street close to the existing McDonald's.

• **Bottom:** Ledger page from King County School District 150 Archived expenditures for year ending

North exposure: Kroll 1912 Township Map: Sections 33, 34. Indicates location of Inglewood Grammar School and residence of Clark Family (Teacher Anna Clark).

Inglewood Hills utility box progression



After the Civil War, soldiers could deduct the time they had served from the residency requirements. Of some 500 million acres dispersed by the General Land Office between 1862 and 1904, only 80 million acres went to homesteaders because few laborers and farmers could afford to build a farm or acquire necessary tools, seed and livestock.

Several years ago, I proposed to the Sammamish City Council that a project be entertained to "artistically wrap" local traffic signal utility boxes. The idea was thought then to be a bit premature, so the prospect was shelved, but not forgotten. When other local jurisdictions began artistically wrapping their respective utility boxes, the Sammamish City Council requested that the Sammamish Arts Commission revisit the project, and produce representative samples.

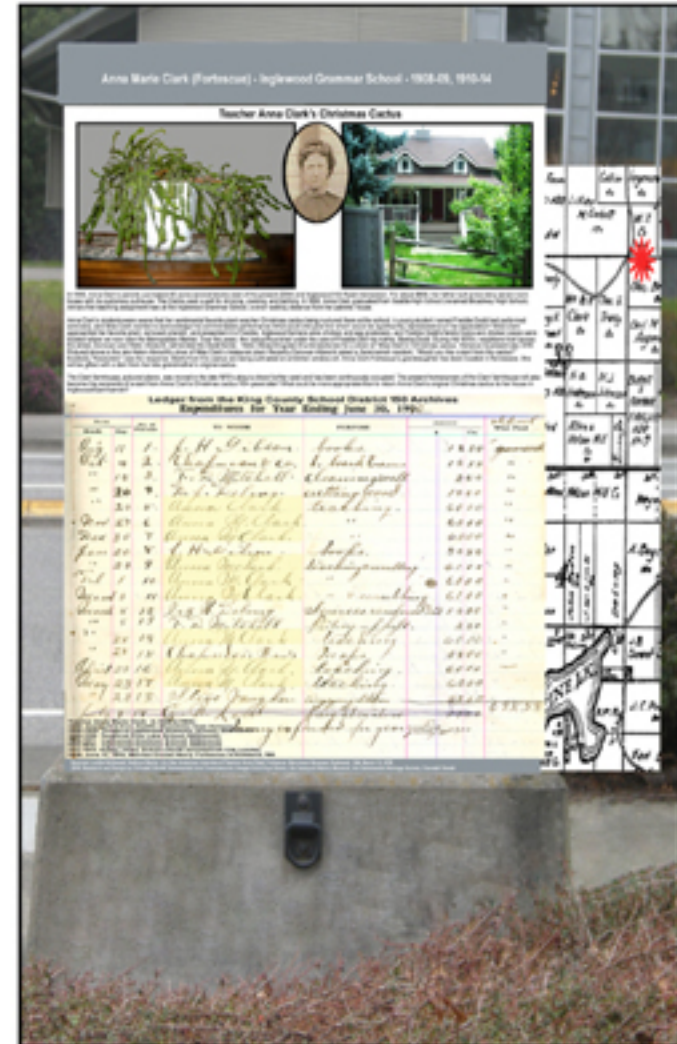
As a Sammamish resident of over 33 years, I observed historic remnants of the Sammamish past were being demolished at an unbridled pace. I pondered, "Why not utilize the location of the Sammamish utility boxes to artistically portray what had historically occurred at that precise physical Sammamish location?" With this goal propelling the pursuit, many hours of visits to research archival files, photos, and conversations with long-time Sammamish residents or their descendants, were combined to amass material from which one could selectively and technologically transfer those memories onto DuPont Tedlar film, thus embracing our local Sammamish traffic signal utility boxes as historical monuments.

In the series of the first four (4) wraps, the second traffic signal utility box wrap is located at the corner of 228th NE and Inglewood Hill Road (NE 8th Street).

Please stop by and see this wrapped utility box for yourself. It is located directly in front of the new BECU in the Saffron Center. There are QR codes on the box itself, which will give you a full description of the images.

The images appearing here and on the wrapped utility box are:

• **West exposure:** Inglewood Grammar School, circa 1890's. The Teacher was Anna



228th NE and Inglewood Hill Road NE (NE 8th Street)

Cabinets:
Large cabinet is a P cabinet.
Extension to P cabinet is a Tesco extension.

2018 Resources: Lucille McDonald; Kathryn Martin; Lily Mae Anderson interview of Teacher Anna Clark Fortescue, Marymoor Museum, Redmond, WA, March 15, 1978. Images from Faye Sween; Issaquah History Museum; Sammamish Heritage Society; Claradell Shedd
Research, Design, and Layout by Claradell Shedd, Sammamish Arts Commissioner