Kingsburg: An Economic History in 10 Objects

The KCA local history committee approached CLARI with a project about local history. Our project was to produce an economic history and geography of the Kingsburg area by way of 10 evocative objects and display these on an interactive website.

We began with object #1: A Kingsburg Barn.

Originally, there were 25 barns, each with a fish shack on the shoreline. These were the heart of the settler economy. The early settlers built English-style barns with regional variants. Our goal is to produce a site map for each of the 25 barns, then choose a representative sample and get it drawn and modeled for the website. With ever-shifting landscapes, socioeconomics, and community dynamics, it is paramount that the histories of these structures and the people who interacted with them be recorded. This project has succeeded in mapping some of the existing and demolished barns, as well as compiling historical information regarding their use and ownership throughout the years.

By partnering with CLARI, and Dr. Karly Kehoe, who made the project central to her *Community Leadership Seminar*, we were able to successfully complete this first phase, identifying the barns, fleshing out the history of ownership, and providing the foundations of an interactive local history website. Two groups were set up to carry the work, a group studying the barns, and a group studying the pre-settlement history of the area. Of the two, the first was the more reflective, and hence the more successful. Special thanks to Michelle McRae for staying with the project until the bittersweet end.

CLARI has allowed us to begin taking stock of ourselves as a settler community. We are mapping how we are in light of who we were, and where we came from. The KCA feels very grateful for the outreach and support provided.

Sincerely,

Seán Kennedy (KCA project liaison)