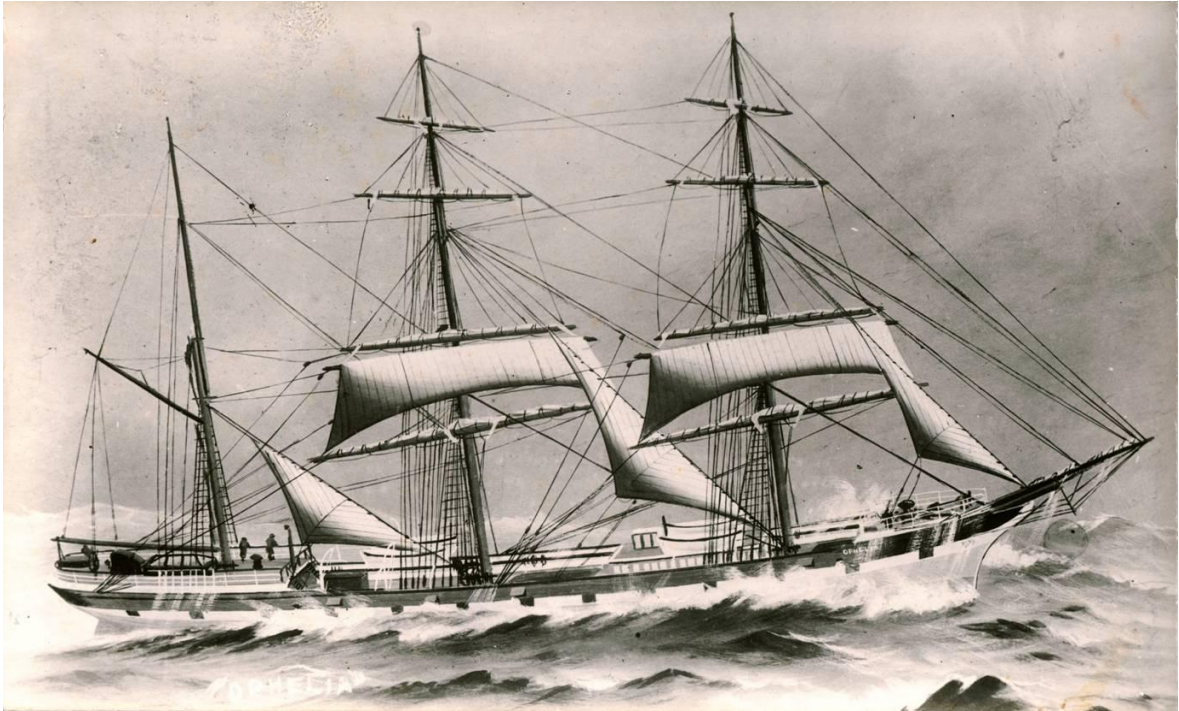


“Ophelia”



Quarantined August 14, 1875

The story of the Roache family

“My family came from County Kilkenny, Ireland and arrived on the *Ophelia* from London via Suez and Torres Straits on 14 August 1875.”

On board were Michael, Patrick, James and John Roache, and their sister Elizabeth. They were between 26 and 20 years of age, and had left behind their parents and eldest brother in post-famine Ireland, to look for opportunities in the new colony.”

Elizabeth contracted rheumatic fever on the voyage and died the night the *Ophelia* arrived in Moreton Bay. While the ship and all on board were waiting for a tow to Peel Island to go into quarantine, Elizabeth’s body was taken ashore and buried on Mud Island above the high water mark.”

The Roaches were quarantined on Peel Island under canvas for a number of weeks before being transported up the Brisbane River on the SS “Kate” to the Immigration Centre at Kangaroo Point.”