

From Karen Flynn

For more information on this story, see Ludlow, Peter. *Moreton Bay People-The Complete Collection*, 2000.

Edited from recollections by Frederick Clarence (Clarrie) Phillips in 1980

Josephine Hunter Phillips was the second eldest daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth Phillips and she was born on the 4 June 1901. Unfortunately, she developed polio when she was three years old. The family was told that salt water would be most beneficial for her (no vaccine was yet available) so Frederick took his family to King Island, just off Wellington Point. Today the island is quite small and is not habitable, but according to Clarrie, the eldest son, in 1904, it was about twice the size it is today with numerous large trees as well as mangroves. The family erected marquees/tents for sleeping, eating and cooking. Even the maid had her own tent! They caught their own food – mainly fish and oysters and fresh water was brought over from the mainland using the causeway, from Wellington Point, at low tide.

Frederick, who was a bank manager at this time, left the island early in the morning to catch the train from Wellington Point to the city and returned around 6pm. Elizabeth, his wife, on her own with five young children for most of the time, ran the household in difficult circumstances but, according to Clarrie, she never complained.

The Phillips family lived an idyllic life on King Island until April 1906 when they moved back to Fortitude Valley. Sadly, Frederick was to die a sudden death in 1907 and in 1916, Cyril Alfred, the second eldest son died of illness in a military hospital in England.

Josephine Hunter Phillips raised her niece following the death of her sister, Leila, in 1925. She never married and lived to be 85 years old.