

Toronto Telegram, March 14, 1953
Schooner Days MXCVI (1096)
By C. H. J. Snider

CAT HOLLOW HALLOO

“HERE!” hails a hearty voice, “I hope to revive a small note on a little place on the north shore of Lake Ontario, which to my thought was one of the grandest spots that God ever made – both for those who were there before me and those who came after.

“On July 4, 1883, I came to this town without clothes on. It being a hot day I didn’t need any, but I have heard since that they were prepared for me.

“So the secret is out. The place where I was born was Cat Hollow.

Only these last few years has it found its way into the road maps of Ontario, though its post office name isn’t Cat hollow, but Lakeport.

“I have made a small map and directory of this famous Port as I knew it, as of half a century ago and some, but this is open for revised comments for those a little older or younger. The real old timers are going or gone. The place, like your article in the paper, is getting smaller and smaller.

“We are as B4, the McGlennon Boys.

“Three are still in the land of the living, William Jr. in Detroit, Capt. Nelsons deceased, Capt. Henry the only living survivor of the wreck of the schooner *Augusta* at Port Credit fifty years ago, and me, Frank at 224 Langley ave., Toronto – couldn’t do my variations and deviations too good, because I played hookey too often from Cat Hollow school. The first teacher was Mr. Clow – and that wasn’t the day before yesterday.”

Perhaps the articles seem shorter, because they are now more easily read – but don’t you think the fine clear type is just dandy?

Space limits prevent giving in this article Mr. McGlennon’s port directory verbatim and as drawn. But we may be able to handle it in later numbers, for we are, in the forthcoming book and in the paper, really going to town on Cat Hollow.

For the present we have to be content with a transcript. Mr. McGlennon proves that Cat Hollow had a higher percentage of captains, mates, cooks and sailors in its population than even its big neighbor Port Hope. Lakeport is still the postal address of masters, engineers and hands



Photo by Arthur J. Bricco, Toronto, nephew of Frank McGlennon.

in big modern freighters on all five Great Lakes.

Smell the tar and oakum in the “port directory” of the wedge-shaped village between Factory Road and Front street and Back street, housing 50 families. These, the last named streets, met on the lake bank just above a key-shaped pier, west of where Lead Creek comes in, and of the town line of Cramahe Township.

It is serving soup without salt to be unable to elaborate Mr. McGlennon’s notations, such as “Indian Landing Place, found many an Indian tomahawk and skinning stone” – “*Katie Eccles* scuttled here” – “*Octavia* went through these cribbings” – “Where Schr. *Keewatin* built” – “*Garibaldi* pulled out here.” He has all the buildings marked – gristmill, seed house, store, blacksmith shop, cooper shop, barrel shed, canning factory, plaster mill, grain office, weigh scales, elevator, two hotels and Presbyterian church, and Archibald Campbell’s residence, the big man of the place.

These are the other householders:

Captain Henry Kirk, the Conachers, sailors and vessels owners, Capt. Ed. Redfearn, Thomas Howard and Bun Scott, sailors; the McGlennons, captains and sailors; Capt. Tom Matthews, Capt. Wm. Matthews, Capt. Johnny Henderson, lost with the *Blanche*; Wm. Hoskins, Sr., Nick Hoskin, Tom Padginton, Wm. Herneghan, Albert Johnston, Fred Hines, Jas. Sproul, Robt. Irvine, Wm. Seed, Capt. Tom Conroy, Wm. Haines, Capt. Jas. Shaw, John Shaw, Capt. John Keith, John Blakeley, Rufus Barrigar, Sr., and Jr., Palmers-Cunninghams.

Capt. Steve Taylor, Capt. Jas. Peacock, Southrons, John Edwards, Capt. Jas. Redfearn, Capt. Charles Redfearn, Thos. Maxwell, George Crow, Chas. McCallum, Joe Kirk, Capt. Walter Kirk, Capt. Tom Padginton, R. Cowie, blacksmith; “Black Bill” Kernerghan, David Kerneghan¹, John Niles.

Of these fifty-one householders named eighteen had master’s papers. Every third man a vessel captain. The others, whether specified or not, were either sailors or connected with sailing. Several of those mentioned also appear in the extensive Port Hope directory, having moved thither.

The little place was well named Lakeport, but I like Cat Hollow better.

1 Kernerghan or Kerneghan, both are thus spelled in Snider’s text. A 2018 search of the Lakeport locality suggests that both are more probably ‘Kernaghan’, e.g. William Kernaghan d. 22 Jul 1934 and David Kernaghan, 1864-1924.