

The McGulpin Point Light
(c) 2011 by Russ Franzen

Looking out toward Lake Michigan, at the gateway to the straits,
The darkness is gone. It's been a long wait.
She sits on a high bluff, her lamp shining bright
Through the Mackinac straits, the McGulpin Point Light.

- 1) In 1869, Keeper Dunn lit the light
For the very first time at McGulpin Point.
From the bluff on the point, the ships saw her beam
As they came into the straits be sail and steam.
Pap Davenport was Keeper for 27 years.
His 9 children helped with chores each day with good cheer.
When the burning Waldo Avery beached just below the light,
The kids helped save the 17 crewmen all that night.

- 2) For 37 years, the Keeper walked up
The winding stairs to the lantern room to care for the light.
Behind a 3 1/2 order lens, a kerosene lamp
Gave out a 3-second flash of white.
The Mackinac Point Light took over, McGulpin Point went dark
It returned to private land after serving as a park.
Then the county finally bought her and the lighthouse folks took o'er,
And the McGulpin Point Light is shining once more.

At the dangerous Western opening to the Straits of Mackinac,
Where schooners in Spring were often stuck in ice, waiting for a thaw
A hundred feet above the straits, her tower can be seen
And Lake Boats can once again see her life-saving beam.