

Catherine MacLellan, Family Names

Walking amongst those graves I stumbled upon yours
Your brother being laid to rest just next door
All those family names and all those people who
I bear resemblance to.

At the edge of that field there's a break in the trees
Where you can hop onto the train tracks
Follow them where they lead
all along the coast and out of black cape

You can go a long way

Land call us home

Let's gather round

Let's tell the stories that remind us
of where we're all from

Let's sing the songs that our parents sang

Bring us all together

With those family names

Harry said he didn't know this place anymore

Changed the lay of the land, cut into the shore

The water's not even fit for swimming these days

From the paper mill on the bay

There's a sold sign in the yard of Aunt Doris' house

I guess at her age it's too much by herself

Still the rhubarb grows behind the garage

And she's busy cooking for us all

As of old, every new generation has to leave this place

Head out into the world to find work that'll pay

We're all drawn back here inevitably

By the land and the sea