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# L. Santoro Cafe — Holley

BY C.W. LATTIN

This photo, taken around 1905, shows the L. Santoro Cafe on Batavia Street in Holley. Lorenzo Santoro one of the men in the picture was born in Rocca San Felice, Italy on June 10, 1851. He was taught the family trade of stonemasonry and developed considerable talents in this craft.

In 1877, he married Josephine Cipriano and soon started a family. In 1887, Lorenzo left Italy for the United States leaving his wife with three children and one on the way. He settled in Holley and in 1891, Josephine and their children, including a daughter he had never seen, arrived at their new home in Holley.

Lorenzo started working in the sandstone quarries, but in 1903 he purchased a restaurant on Batavia Street. They did quite well, especially for being one of the first Italian-owned businesses in Holley. In fact, the Santoro family was also one of the first Italian families to locate in Holley. Lorenzo carried on a good business at the restaurant for many years finally selling in 1925. For many years this was known as

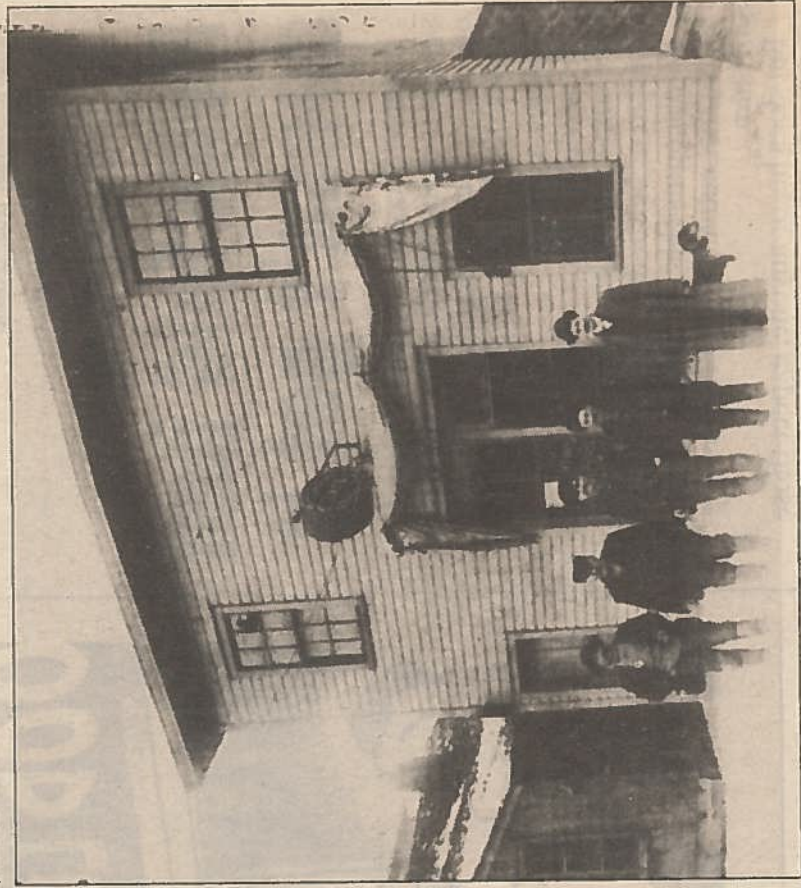
the Towne Tavern. The building now serves as apartments.

The accompanying photo and above information are all to be found in a recently released book entitled: "The Santoro Family In upstate New York" by Raymond J. Santoro. This hard cover volume is illustrated throughout 392 pages with many family photos. It represents close to 20 years of research by the author.

Although it is about one family and succeeding generations, it is fascinating biographical material. Every family should have a Raymond Santoro to save, research and compile such a professional history.

This book puts forth the struggles and triumphs of the people involved. It points out how a brother and sister were ashamed of being of Italian heritage and either changed the name or spelled it differently. It points out the prejudices when a teacher, because she was Italian, couldn't get a job.

But all in all, the book shows how an immigrant succeeded and with now several generations beyond Lorenzo and Josephine how far reaching the tenacity of a hard working man and wife became



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the American ideal.

The Santoro family book may be purchased through the Murray Holley

Historical Society by contacting Marsha Defilippis, town/village historian at (585) 638-8188.