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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Holley important as a shipping center

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This photo was taken in February 1913 during the enlargement or reconstruction of the Erie Canal at Holley.

The dark-colored small building about center was the Depot for the Buffalo, Lockport and Rochester (B.L. & R) Trolley line which ran adjacent to the canal. This electric railroad opened up in 1908.

The large house to the left was the L. Santoro Hotel.

To the far right we note a steam engine that looks like a tractor.

Holley was named for Myron Holley, one of the original canal commissioners.

This settlement developed as a center for canal laborers even before the canal officially opened in 1825.

Salt springs were discovered at the south side of Holley by early settlers who first named the place Salt Port as early as 1821. However, the name, "Holley" was soon afterward applied.

The Village of Holley as a municipality was not

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incorporated until Sept. 3, 1850.

With not only the canal but also the railroad, which opened in 1852, Holley became important to the agricultural community as a shipping center.

During the late 1800s and early 20th century, Medina sandstone quarries along the railroad and canal became very prominent. Consequently, a significant number of Italian families came to Holley because of the employment to be found in the sandstone industry.

An historic marker near the site of our photo on East Avenue near the entrance to the Canal park states; "PODUNK, the area near this lift bridge was once the center of Holley's largest Italian immigrant population and fondly known as Podunk." This historic marker was placed by the Holley Italian Heritage Society Inc. in 2000.