



4-18-14

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Holley Scene

This turn-of-the-century photo was taken on State Street or what is now Mechanic Street in the Village of Holley. The photographer pointed his camera directly east to capture the moment in time.

The sign on the building states: "FW. DONOHUE. HORSE SHOEING AND REPAIRING."

On the back side of the photo, a long time ago, someone identified the individuals standing in the picture. They are: Joseph Haight (middle); Mag (the horse); Frank "Duff" Donohue (right), owner of the shop; and Andy Jenks (left).

The 1903 Orleans County Directory lists two of the people. We find one under Holley, "Donohue, Frank W. blacksmith, State" and one under Murray, "Haight, Joseph W. blacksmith and

Vol. XXXVI No. 17

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farmer."

Notice that all three are wearing the typical blacksmith garb: leather aprons and short sleeves.

Next to the shop are several wooden spoke wheels. As was the custom, most blacksmiths were also wheelwrights, or at least could fix the heavy metal wheel rims when needed. The blacksmith was indeed the forerunner of the present-day service station operator.

Both quarried stone buildings still remain on Mechanic Street, although very much disguised from what we see here.