

Dr. J. B. Marchisi was the first Italian resident to open a drug store in Utica, NY. According to George Schiro's book, *Americans by Choice*, Dr. Frank Robertaccio was the second Italian to own a drugstore in Utica after John Marchisi. He earned a medical degree from the University of Naples before immigrating to Utica in 1898 (See photo below). His drug store was first listed in the Utica City Directory in 1903 at 411 Bleecker Street. However according to member **Ron Weir** who does a lot of research on early Utica history; in the 1902 Directory there was an Emilio Sepe who had the "Italian Drug Store" at 431 Bleecker Street, which is a year before Robertaccio is listed. Sepe is listed in the section that lists the names of the residents of Utica, but not under the listings of drug stores. Possibly it cost extra to advertise in this section of the directory and Sepe could not afford to do so. Ron states that maybe Robertaccio was the second established Italian druggist in Utica but Emilio Sepe is listed before him as having a drug store but maybe his business endeavor was not a success.



**CLEAR ROBERTACCIO DRUG STORE BOTTLE CIRCA: 1905
6 3/8 INCHES H. & 2 5/16 INCHES W. – PHOTO IS SMALLER THAN ACTUAL SIZE**