



## EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### APS UNIT 28

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## HOW EAST HAMBURGH BECAME ORCHARD PARK

By Alfred Carroccia

The town of Orchard Park is located southeast of the city of Buffalo in the center of Erie County. The original settlements were along the Big Tree Road which ran from Lake Erie easterly to Wyoming County.

It was designated as a postal route in 1814 and helped in the development of Orchard Park from a village to town.

A post office was formed in the eastern part of Hamburg in 1821, but was discontinued in 1822. It was reopened in 1826 as the East Hamburg post office with Samuel Hawkins as its first postmaster.

The original post office was located on the Big Tree Road and the area around it developed into what is now the village of Orchard Park.

The post office at East Hamburg closed March 6, 1883 and re-opened as the Orchard Park post office. The postmaster was Christopher Hambleton. The post office continues to this day.

The manuscript postmarks from East Hamburg are not listed in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*. The example in the cover shown is docketed April 5, 1842, and paid the eighteen and a half cent rate to Ripley, Ohio, which was a distance of four hundred miles from Buffalo (Figure 1).

The circle town postmark was introduced in 1850s (Figure 2). The double line double circle postmark made its appearance after 1880 and is a relatively common postmark (Figure 3). ■

