

THE HAMBURG-VERSAILLES PLANK ROAD

(research done by Donald Spittler, Lake View historian (1919-2010))

From a survey filed in the Erie County Clerk's Office on April 17, 1850 in Miscellaneous Liber 2, page 128, Hamburg-Versailles [Plank Road](#) extended from Joel Smith's Tavern on Hamburg Turnpike (where Pleasant Ave. now meets Rt. 5 - see [1866 map of Lake View](#)) through Versailles, NY to Rodney B. Smith's store in the [Town of Hanover](#), Chautauqua County. Other reference states to center of bridge over Cattaraugus Creek.

Certificates of Inspection (as built) contained in Corporate Box 7224, Erie Co. Clerk's Office:

1. **Dated June 10, 1851**, signed by Ira Fish and L.L. Miller; covers portion of road from termination at head of Hamburg Turnpike to Matthew Sheperd's in Evans - 3 5/8 miles.
2. **Dated July 16, 1851**, same inspectors as above; covers the portion from the bridge at Versailles over Cattaraugus Creek to the bridge over Big Sister Creek in Pontiac - 7 miles.

Notices of abandonment in Corporate box # 7224; also in Miscellaneous Liber 2, pgs 371, and 407 and Liber 3, pg 65.

1. **July 29, 1856** (Liber 2, page 371). Signed by Andrew Varney, President and T.W. Camp, Secretary. Abandoned the portion from Rodney Smith's store in Hanover to Nelson Field's tavern in the Town of Brant. R.O.W. conveyed to Town in which it was located.
2. **March 30, 1857** (Liber 2, page 407). Signed by Levi Brown, President and T.W. Camp, Secretary. Abandoned the portion from Field's Tavern to the bridge over Big Sister Creek at Pontiac.
3. **January 6, 1858** (Liber 3, page 65). Signed by Levi Brown, President and T.W. Camp, Secretary. Abandoned the portion from the bridge over Big Sister Creek in Pontiac to the road that passes William Bullock's place, which runs from Jerusalem Corners to Eden Corners. Abandoned to the Town of Evans.

Acquisition of Right of Way:

Only one deed found to date (Oct. 23, 1990): Liber of deeds #130, page 272 recorded July 16, 1852.

GRANTOR: Jason Foster, Town of Hamburg.

GRANTEE: John Berland, Levi Brown, Rodney B. Smith, Directors of the Hamburg-Versailles Plank Rd Co.

CONSIDERATION: \$60.00.

CONVEYED: A strip of land 2 rods wide on the west side of the farm, beginning at a point where the plank road leaves the Lake Road and thence to a point where the plank road crosses the State Line Railroad, according to a survey by D.O. Stephens, and to the angle of said plank road where it crosses said railroad.

Current description of Versailles Plank Rd (County Rt. 41) from Wikipedia:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_county_routes_in_Erie_County,_New_York_\(33%E2%80%93364\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_county_routes_in_Erie_County,_New_York_(33%E2%80%93364))

County Route 41, named Versailles Plank Road, is a north-south route that travels through the towns of [Brant](#), [Evans](#) and just crosses into [Eden](#) near its northern end. CR 41 begins at [NY 249](#) (North Collins Road) in the town of Brant; however, Versailles Plank Road continues south of NY 249. CR 41 crosses into Evans at an intersection with Cain Road ([CR 491](#)). CR 41 continues north through Evans, but as a result of [I-90 \(New York State Thruway\)](#), Versailles Plank Road is split into two sections, both connected to [CR 32](#) (Evans Center Road). CR 41 continues west of I-90 on a northward track, intersecting [US 20](#) (Southwestern Boulevard) and Sturgeon Point Road ([CR 18](#)) before ending at South Creek Road ([CR 476](#)) in the hamlet of North Evans. (NOTE: this leaves out the section in Lake View because the bridge over 18-Mile Creek is no longer used for traffic)

Here is a rough representation of [Hamburg-Versailles Plank Road](#) (using Google Maps), with slight modifications due to current road configurations. It is approx. 28 miles, which today would take about 1 hr. In 1850, it no doubt would have taken 1/2 day.

See [Versailles Plank Bridge](#) over 18-Mile Creek today.

[Bike ride](#) using Versailles Plank Rd.

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