

Onekama Village Park

5. Historical Marker, "The Portage Lake Region," Onekama Village Park, south side of the 4700-4800 block of Main Street

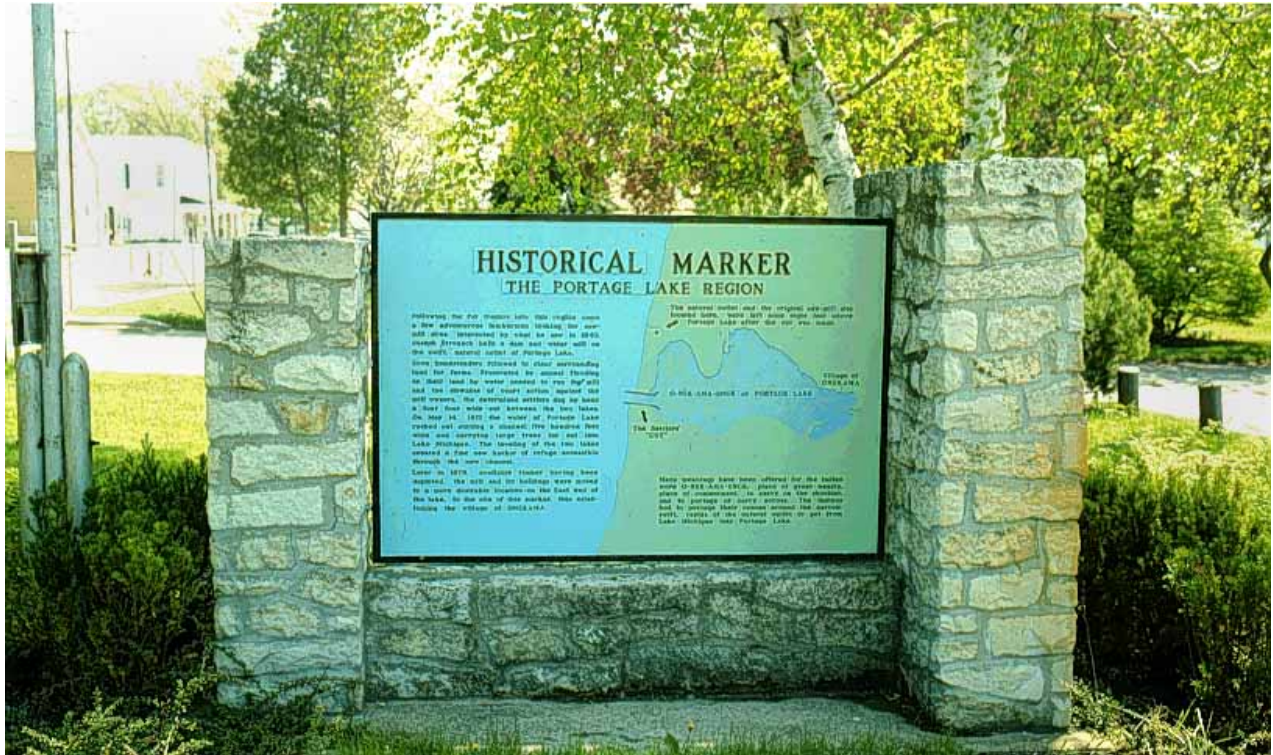


On May 8, 1871, almost occurring simultaneously with the opening of the Channel, a United States Post Office was established at Portage, with a Government request that the name of the village be



changed to "Onekama" to avoid confusion with other places also known as "Portage." In 1880, A. W. Farr moved the steam-powered mill from Portage (which would now be in the Portage Park Resort) to the site that is the Village Park in today's Onekama.

Eventually, little was left of what came to be known as "Old Portage," after several of the buildings had been moved to the new Village and others were left to disappear. Even the cemetery became obliterated, with its occupants sleeping deeply beneath the sand that had blown in. The steam-powered mill became a part of the Onekama Lumber Company, which was organized in 1882.



In 1888, the Manistee & North-Eastern Railroad completed the connecting link between Onekama and Manistee; the end of the line that entered the Village from the southeast and ran along the Lake occurred near the depot that was at this location in what is now the Park.

After serving as a farm store and a repair shop, the depot was removed from the scene in the early 1960's and replaced in 1968 with the historical marker, "The Portage Lake Region," through the efforts of Elsket Chaney and others.

Onekama
Lumber
Company's
"Dan
Hayes"

