

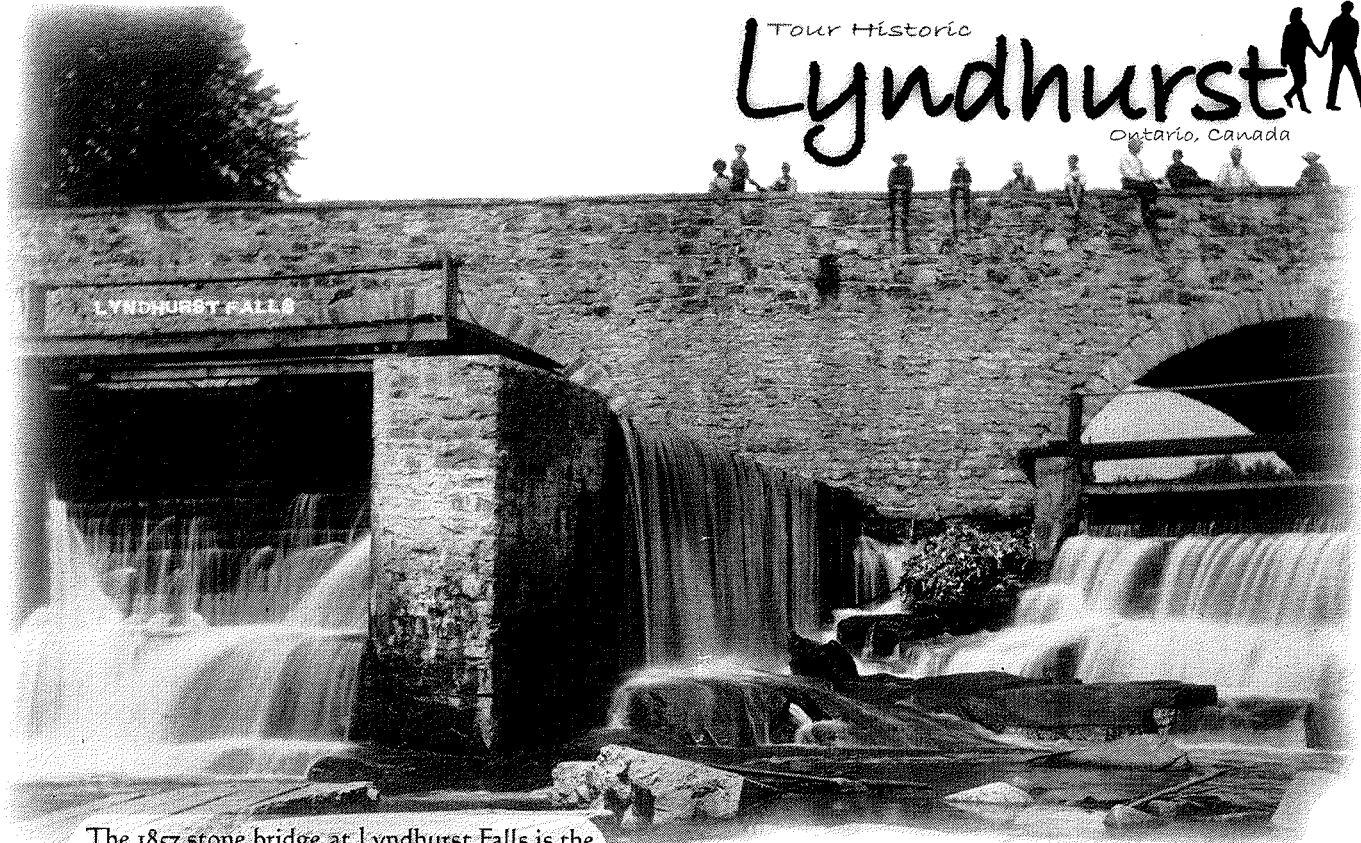
Furnace Falls began with the iron foundry in 1801 but was renamed Lyndhurst in 1846.

Iron Works Monument (erected 1935)

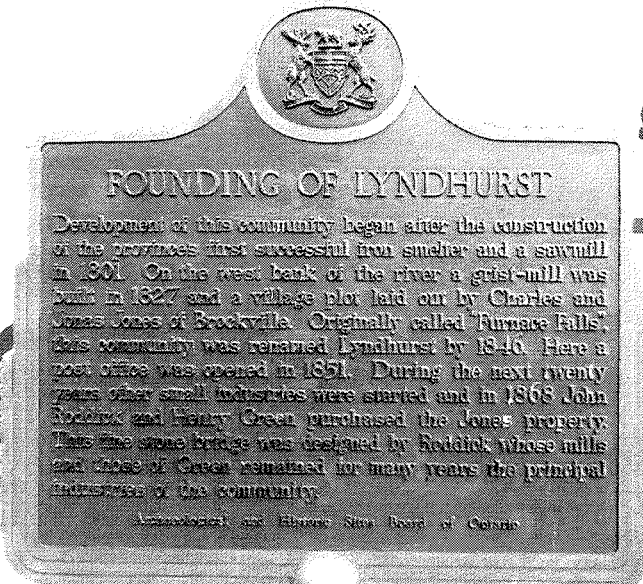


This stamp marked a bag of "Fine" grade flour from the grist mill at Furnace Falls, Upper Canada prior to 1842.

Tour Historic
Lyndhurst
 Ontario, Canada



The 1857 stone bridge at Lyndhurst Falls is the oldest stone bridge in Ontario.



Your official walking guide

to the historic village formerly known as

Furnace Falls

1801



A Brief History of Lyndhurst

By 1784, it was known that the big falls on the Gananoque River had all the resources needed to develop an iron smelter. Rivals competed for permission from the Executive Council to develop the resource, until 1800, when **Wallis Sunderlin** an iron master from Vermont received assent. The **Lansdowne Iron Works** was completed in 1802, making it the first in **Upper Canada**. Sunderlin was granted 1200 acres of land to supply fuel for the blast furnace. The furnace produced pig iron, which was converted, with a water powered forge and trip hammer, into wrought iron. Attempts to cast domestic iron utensils had limited success. The village that grew up around the iron smelter was known as Furnace Falls.

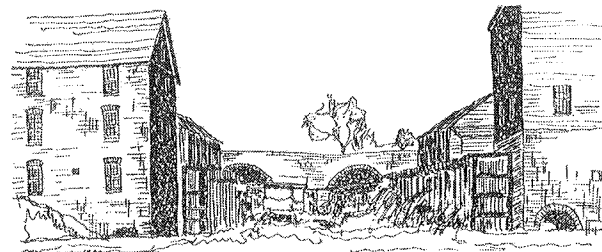
In 1798, in anticipation of the furnace construction, a group of speculators built the "**Furnace Road**" from Lyndhurst to Kingston Mills (now Hwy 15). Sunderlin built the first saw mill in 1803 and a grist mill in 1808. In 1811 the smelter and mills were destroyed by fire. Sunderlin died that year, and his family returned to the USA amid rumours that the forge had been making weapons for American sympathizers in Canada. In 1804, **Ephraim Jones**, a wealthy resident and member of the Legislative Assembly, bought a quarter share in the ironworks and sawmill and took a mortgage on the adjacent land. After Sunderlin's death in 1811 and the defection of his family, Jones fell heir to the water power and town site, but he too died before the outbreak of the War of 1812. No attempt was ever made to rebuild the ironworks, and no buildings are known to have survived from that period.

In 1828, Jones' sons **Charles and Jonas**, built a saw mill, a grist mill with two runs of stones, a merchant shop, and a stone house here. Furnace Falls became the mill village for the Irish settlers who were then filling up the farm lots in the **Rear of Lansdowne Township**. A carding mill was built at the south end of the village about 1837. Its dam created the lower mill pond in the middle of the village. The mills were leased to successive operators until 1868.

In 1846 the village was renamed **Lyndhurst**, either to honor John Singleton Copley (**Lord Lyndhurst**) or **Governor Sir John Colbourn**, who was born in Lyndhurst, Hampshire, England.

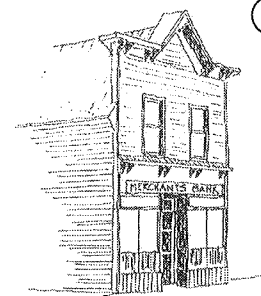
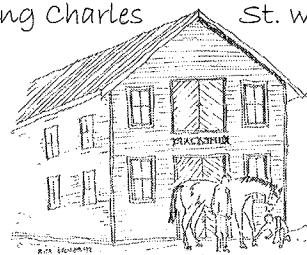


Jonas Jones, 1833



Roddick Mill • Bridge • Green Mill

- ① The A.J. Love Blacksmith Shop was built in 1887 and is the last remnant of the iron working trade here that dates back to 1800. The shop was operated by Bland "Tory" Love until the early 1970's.
- ② The William. Cook House was built circa 1858 by the blacksmith for whom Cook Street is named. His shop was an open air forge facing Charles St. where the cairn to the ironworks now stands.
- ③ The Lansdowne Iron Works the first iron smelter in Upper Canada, stood on the east bank of the river adjacent to the falls. This is also the site of the 1828 Jones mill and later the Henry Green mill.
- ④ The Lyndhurst Bridge of 1857 is the oldest bridge in Ontario. Its construction is no different than the Roman Bridges in Roddick's native Scotland. In 1986, the bridge was restored after local residents opposed its demolition.
- ⑤ Only the stone foundation remains of Henry Green's 1886, two-storey, brick grist mill. In 1891, ownership passed to R. G. Harvey.
- ⑥ The Riverside House was the main hotel of the village, with sample rooms where peddlers exhibited the latest products. It was built of local brick by R. W. Copeland in 1876 on the site that had been a hotel and tavern since 1800.
- ⑦ Wing's Live Bait & Tackle, was originally a general store built by Henry Green in 1876. A small addition was made to house the post office in the 1890s.
- ⑧ The former Bank of Toronto Building, built in the 1920s, is faced with granite quarried at the west end of the village.
- ⑨ Lyndhurst Groceteria, another building of local brick, was originally Wellington Johnston's General Store, later owned by Harold Webster.



- ⑪ Wellington Johnston's house, a late Victoria residence showing the prosperity of its builder, has remained intact with its 2-storey verandas and fine stable.
- ⑫ Built as the Merchant Bank, this building with its town front was later a millinery shop before it became a residence.
- ⑬ The Central Hotel, now a residence, was the rival of the Riverside House.

⑬ The D.W. Green house with a brick addition made in the 1870s. Now the Green Gecko.

⑭ The brick Schoolhouse of 1896 has retained most of its original character. It replaced a one-room school built in 1860 on the same site.



⑮ St. Luke's Anglican Church was built in 1882. The rectory, designed by locally born architect Benjamin Dillon, was built in 1906.

⑯ This stone house is the oldest building in the village, built by Charles and Jonas Jones in 1828. It has served as a store and accommodation for mill workers, the family home of the Roddick family, and lately as a B & B.

⑰ Henry Green built this house in 1878. It was later transferred with his mill to R. G. Harvey whose descendants still live there in 2012.

⑱ The present Carding Mill Bridge is successor to a wooden bridge and later a steel bridge on the same site. The remains of the carding mill dam are on the downstream side and the foundation of the actual mill is at the north end of the dam.

Beginning in 1800, several wooden bridges preceded the current stone bridge which was constructed in 1856. Legend attributes the design to millwright William Saunders and his apprentice **John Roddick**. It was completed by **Simeon Ransom** in 1857.

In 1868 John Roddick and **Henry Green** purchased the mills, land, and water rights from the Jones Estate. The 1828 mills were in poor repair, so both men built new mills and dams on opposite sides of the river. Roddick used the water going through the west arch of the bridge and Green the east arch. The centre arch acted as a spillway. Lyndhurst prospered during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Every acre of land in the Township worth clearing was in farm production. The farmers depended on the village merchants and tradesmen. Over the years the business section contained two hotels, several merchant shops, tailors, tinsmiths, harness makers, carriage and wagon makers, a brick yard, granite quarry, milliner, cooper, shoemaker, several blacksmiths, two cheese factories, a steam sawmill, and three churches in addition to the water powered sawmills, grist mills, shingle mill, and carding mill with dye house.

The **Brockville, Westport and Sault Ste. Marie Rail Road** was built in 1884, with Lyndhurst station located about 2 miles east of the village. The railroad brought outside buyers to the annual **Turkey Fair** in November, and took the produce to markets in Montreal and NYC.

In 1911, George Roddick installed a dynamo in his mill bringing hydro electricity to the village years ahead of other local communities. The arrival of factory-made goods, mail order catalogues, telephones, and automobiles all took a toll on local businesses. The dynamo had been purchased and shut down by Ontario Hydro in 1929. By 1952 the railway had ceased to be viable. Today, with the resurgence of rural living, Lyndhurst is a center serving the tourism, recreation, and organic food industries, and hosting a modern version of the Turkey Fair.



Lyndhurst

Walking Paths



All paths begin and end at Furnace Falls Park
Water & Charles Street

1 kilometre = 0.62 miles

- Bench
- Washroom
- Picnic table
- Interpretive sign

Nature Loop
(1 km, 30 minutes)
A short walk to spot turtles crossing the road, and red-winged blackbirds flitting through the bulrushes.

Village Loop
(1.5 km, 45 minutes)
A pleasant easy walk down tree-lined streets past historic homes with a mill pond at one end and a lake at the other.

Country Loop
(4 km, 60 minutes)
A leisurely stroll to soak in the country air and enjoy old farm houses with wrap-around verandas and rustic old barns.

