



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday April 28, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Memorial Hall in the Adams Library - 92 Park Street - Adams, MA 01220

BUSINESS

- Report of the Officers
- Past accomplishments and future plans
- Election of one Director

PROGRAM

Dr. Samuel M. Jones

The Man Who Transformed the Renfrew Mill into The Arnold Print Work
presented by Samuel M. Trudel

Please use the Elevator Entrance on Melrose Street if you wish to avoid the stairs.



Dr. Samuel M. Jones

*The Man Who Transformed the Renfrew Mill
into The Arnold Print Works*

presented by Samuel M. Trudel

Samuel M. Trudel, Dr. Jones' grandson, is an award-winning graphic designer and family historian who has recently published the second of a two-book companion series covering Arnold Print Works history between 1868 and 1942. Arnold Print Works, with divisions in North Adams and Adams, was a leading Berkshires textile manufacturing company with offices in New York and Paris. Mr. Trudel's presentation will focus on the remarkable story of the Jones Division in Adams, which was a leading employer in Adams throughout its 40-year history.

In 1928, Arnold Print Works purchased at auction the Renfrew Manufacturing Company in Adams. In its 59 years of operation from 1868 to 1927, Renfrew could claim being one of

the first and most highly regarded producers of cotton gingham cloth in the country, a major manufacturer in Adams and the Berkshire region, and one of the largest producers of table damask, crinkled bed spreads, draperies, and towels in the country.

Immediately after purchasing the Renfrew plant, the buildings were completely renovated and modernized to create The Jones Division, which produced world-renowned draperies. The company survived bankruptcy in the Great Depression to become what Dr. Jones described as "the finest operation of its kind in the country." In 1942, at the outbreak of WWII, Arnold Print Works was forced into liquidation due to war demands on cotton. The Jones Division plant in Adams was purchased by Aspinook Corporation and continued operations as a fabric printer under several different owners until closing in July of 1984.

Renfrew Mill #2, which was renovated to start the Jones Division, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. On November 24, 1984, a six-alarm fire destroyed most of the complex except for the original 1868 mill. It was the largest fire in Adams history. Eventually the ruins of the once-prominent industry were demolished, ending what was a hundred-year history of textile manufacturing in that location.

Mr. Trudel's presentation will include never before published important photographs of the company's operations, samples of original Jones Division fabrics, and family photographs.