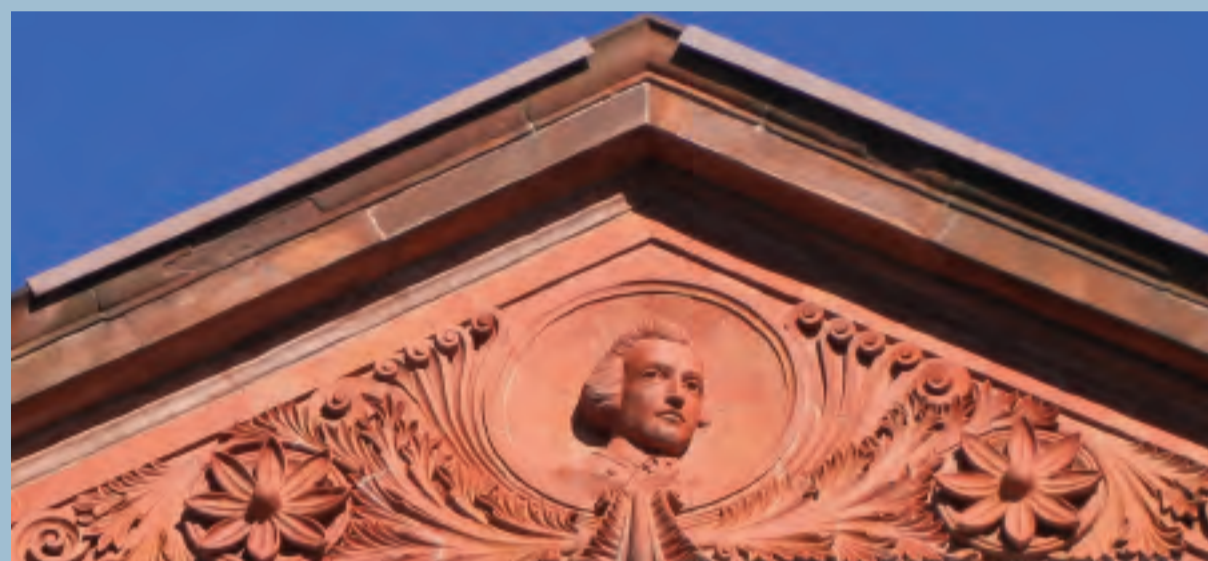




FRANK JONES'S HOTELS

FRANK JONES (1832-1902) WAS A BARRINGTON-BORN FARMBOY who came to Portsmouth as a teenager and literally rose from rags to riches in a remarkably short time. A man of boundless energy and daring, he parlayed the fortune he amassed as a brewer of ale into vastly greater wealth through investments in a myriad of enterprises, including banking, insurance, and shoe manufacturing. Among his most successful ventures were his Rockingham and Wentworth hotels.



Terra cotta bas reliefs of Woodbury Langdon (*above*) and Frank Jones (*far right, top*). Photos courtesy of Richard G. Adams.



ROCKINGHAM HOTEL

In 1870 Jones purchased the Rockingham House. He leveled the inn and constructed an elegant, 130-room hotel on the site (*shown above*), retaining only some of the fine walnut paneling from the original Langdon mansion. The paneling is still found in the current building, which is now a condominium. The same four lions have guarded the entrances since 1872.

Color lithograph, *The 1870 Rockingham Hotel*, ca. 1872. Private Collection.



A HOTEL REBUILT

Jones's 1870 hotel was heavily damaged by fire in 1884. Ever-resilient, he promptly rebuilt it in essentially the same form as it was before the fire (and as it now stands). High up on his reconstructed hotel Jones added terra cotta bas reliefs of Woodbury Langdon (*on the left*) and himself (*on the right*); below them are stylized renditions of the four seasons, all designed by Massachusetts artist F. Mortimer Lamb.

In 1905 newspapermen from all over the world filled the Rockingham Hotel during the Russo-Japanese negotiations leading up to the Treaty of Portsmouth.



FRANK JONES "King of the Ale-makers"

This, the only known portrait of Jones, was probably painted during one of his terms as a member of the U.S. Congress (1875-1879).

Oil painting by Nellie Mathes Horn in 1901, after a photograph of Frank Jones from the mid-1870s. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenæum.



WOODBURY LANGDON MANSION

Woodbury Langdon, a distinguished member of Portsmouth's prominent Langdon family, built a mansion on this site in 1795. In 1830 it was converted to an inn called the Rockingham House.

Cabinet card, *Old Rockingham House*, circa 1860. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenæum.

THE ORIGINAL WENTWORTH

Jones bought the 1874 Wentworth Hotel in New Castle in 1879, shown here as it looked shortly before his purchase. He greatly enlarged and improved it over the next two decades, adding features that were then novel to this region, such as electric lighting, flush toilets, steam elevators, and golf and tennis facilities.

Davis Brothers, *Early View of the Wentworth Hotel*, 1870s-80s, Stereograph. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenæum.



JONES'S WENTWORTH AT ITS PEAK

By the time of his death Jones's opulent Wentworth Hotel had become one of the premier resort hotels in the country. Many of its guests were wealthy patrons who booked accommodations for the entire summer season, seeking to escape the heat of cities like New York and Philadelphia.

In 1905 delegates from Japan and Russia lodged at the Wentworth while negotiating the end of the Russo-Japanese War.

Postcard, *Aerial view of the Wentworth Hotel*. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenæum.



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