

The History of  
Salem Valley Scottish Rite  
Salem Oregon  
2023

**Salem Valley Scottish Rite Center**

*Records establish the fact that the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was active in Salem as early as 1870. For reasons unknown, this group was dissolved sometime between 1875 and 1880.*

*In 1922 a small group of Scottish Rite Masons called a meeting of members of the Rite in Salem to consider plans for the observation of Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday ceremonies. These were solemnized by a Thursday evening banquet at the Marion Hotel and an Easter Sunday meeting at the Masonic Temple. A few months later, the same group met to consider regular meetings and on November 13, 1922, the Salem Rose Croix club was organized.*

*(Source: <https://www.willametteheritage.org/scottish-rite/>)*

*In January of 1923 the Salem Rose Croix club met for dinner with Scottish Rite members of the Legislature at the Spa Restaurant. This forward thinking Scottish Rite Freemasons continued to meet throughout the following summer with a series picnics. At a meeting of the Salem Rose Croix club on December 3, 1924, attended by Illustrious Brother Phillip S. Malcolm, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Oregon, requirements for a Lodge of Perfection were outlined.*

*(Source: <https://www.willametteheritage.org/scottish-rite/>)*

*This group of Scottish Rite Freemasons prospered and, in 1927, directors were authorized to purchase equipment and paraphernalia. Continued activity of degree conferrals, practices and dinners marked the years 1928 and 1929. In November 1929, Illustrious Brother Gaylord Clark, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Oregon, was requested to establish the Salem Lodge of Perfection. In January 1930, formal petition for Letters Temporary were prepared and on February 20, 1930, these were granted.*

*(Source: <https://www.willametteheritage.org/scottish-rite/>)*

*The Salem Rose Croix Club was therefore dissolved after a successful existence of over seven years. Its 65 members, and 19 others, became charter members of the new Salem Lodge of Perfection to which all properties and moneys were donated. Total financial assets of the Lodge were \$162.12. By 1939 the assets had increased to \$3,280 and the membership had risen to 183. In this year, the Salem Chapter of Rose Croix were chartered and meetings for both were held in the Masonic Temple at 495 State Street.*

*(Source: <https://www.willametteheritage.org/scottish-rite/>)*

*By 1945, interest in a new Masonic facility was stimulated by the great demand for use by these and other Masonic affiliated organizations. In 1948, when no action had been taken the Scottish Rite Lodge and Chapter decided to proceed. This resulted in the purchase of a lot, but a later committee decided the property was not satisfactory.*

*(Source: <https://www.willametteheritage.org/scottish-rite/>)*

*However, in the 500 block of South Commercial Street there was a property of nearly half a block on which stood a large uncompleted building showed great potential. One of the members, after noticing a group inspecting the building, informed the officers of the Lodge that the building might be purchased. In 1950, a conference with the officers of the Trust company that held the building resulted in an option to buy.*

*(Source: <https://www.willametteheritage.org/scottish-rite/>)*

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*A committee immediately began securing pledges of money, labor and materials to purchase and rebuild. It would be impossible to evaluate the hours and days of labor given by numberless volunteers, working along with professionals, toward the common goal of the new Temple. The first ceremonies were held in the new facility on May 31, 1951.*

(Source: <https://www.willametteheritage.org/scottish-rite/>)

From the history above we move forward to the available sources within newspapers.



Apr 29, 1950 1 The Oregon statesman



Apr 29, 1950 2 The Oregon statesman



Jun 27, 1950 The Oregon statesman

There was Capital Stock in the amount of \$50,000.00 in 500 shares. The names of the Brothers involved at these early stages were Herman M. Johnston, Frank Jewett, Virgil T. Golden, W. L. Lewis, Robert White, Harold C. Walling, Daniel H. Schulze, Harris Lietz, Rex Hartley and W. C. Winslow.

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3

## Dedication of Scottish Rite Temple Draws Large Throng

Dedication ceremonies for newly completed Salem Scottish Rite temple on South Commercial street were held Saturday night with a capacity crowd of more than 600 Masons and well-wishers attending. The group was the largest gathering in Salem Masonic history. Presiding was Rex R. Hartley, venerable master, Salem lodge. Congratulatory speeches were presented by Gov. Douglas McKay and Mayor Alfred Loucks.

McKay said opening of the building was a landmark in the community in view of the long history of Masonry and Scottish Rite in association with democracy and freedom.

Leslie M. Scott, grand herald of the supreme council of the southern jurisdiction, directed the services. In attendance were nine past grand masters of Oregon.

Opening of the temple marked the 100th year of Masonry in Oregon and 81st year of Scottish rite in Oregon, officials pointed out. It is the third temple in Oregon, the largest fraternal hall in Salem.

The program included invocation by the Rev. George H. Swift, vocal selections by Terry Murray

and piano selections by Ralph J. Dobbs.

Earlier, a banquet with Dan Schulze, master of Salem chapter of Rose Croix, presiding was held at Marion hotel.

# Can We Get a Bit

Burns, eking who Aug-

8 Sept 23, 1951 oregon statesman



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## 21 Masons in New Scottish Rite Class

This class of 32nd degree Masons at right recently received the degree at a Salem consistory of Scottish Rite ceremony in the new Scottish Rite building on South Commercial street. W. O. Wilson was not present for the picture but the other 20 members of the class are shown above, including class president J. E. Van Wyngarden, E. W. Fisher, W. A. Hansen, F. M. North, Edward Klippert, C. Hershe, V. C. Neal, Jr., J. C. Renault, L. I. Robinson, R. D. Driscoll, E. Clymer, H. C. Lamb, R. A. Green, W. D. Claggett, A. R. Thomas, E. A. Johnson, G. C. Stephens, D. O. Crockett, E. C. Wilson, J. O. Van Winkle.

### NEW 4-H CLUB STARTED

AUBURN — A third 4-H club of Auburn school pupils was or-



resident Mark Fackens: secret. MATCHSTICKS

solinters. Bazouette-cut diamonds

9 Dec 6 1951 Oregon Statesman

A few months after the official opening of the Salem Valley Scottish Rite Center a huge new Class of 21 Scottish Rite Freemasons. The first 21 Scottish Rite Freemasons to receive their degree within the new building were:

J. E. Van Wyngarden, E. W. Fisher, W. A. Hansen, F. M. North, Edward Klippert, C. Hershe, V. C. Neal, Jr., J. C. Renault, L. I. Robinson, R. D. Driscoll, E. Clymer, H. C. Lamb, R. A. Green, W. D. Claggett, A. R. Thomas, E. A. Johnson, G. C. Stephens, D. O. Crockett, E. C. Wilson and J. O. VAn Winkle.