

The Scottish Rite became a reality in Deadwood October 19, 1892 when Charters for Golden Belt Lodge of Perfection No. 5, Robert Bruce Chapter of Rose Croix and Deadwood Council of Kadosh No. 3 were Chartered. The final Charter for Black Hills Consistory No. 3 was received on March 25, 1893. Thus began a relationship between the community known as Deadwood and a fraternal organization known as Scottish Rite Masons.

Construction on the building began in 1892. In 1900, the Cornerstone was placed and the building was completed in 1902 at which time it was dedicated. In 1952 a fire destroyed the office of the Secretary/Registrar eliminating some historic records.

A new auditorium was constructed on the third floor in 1960. It is on the stage of that auditorium that the four divisions of the Black Hills Scottish Rite presents the 29 Degrees of this particular Masonic entity. In the auditorium are housed the magnificent theater stage drops which are highly valued by the Black Hills Scottish Rite and, as well by theater professionals who have examined them, declaring them to be the fifth most valued scenery in all of the Scottish Rite in the United States.

Scottish Rite Masons practice fraternalism, personal growth, promote free public education and have established themselves as a principal benefactor of speech and hearing facilities in South Dakota. The members of the Black Hills Scottish Rite contribute significantly to the speech and hearing clinics throughout South Dakota, including the Rite Care Clinic in Rapid City, each year.

Scottish Rite Masons in general and without question those who are South Dakota members of the fraternity are proud of their charitable endeavors, seeing them as investments in people and, by extension, a meaningful way of helping people, especially the young, to overcome deficits which can scar them for a lifetime. By giving youth the power to hear and to speak, we believe that our monies and our commitment are making a dramatic impact upon the future for these youngsters and a meaningful and essential intervention for their well-being, growth and appropriate realization of the essentials for success in life.



Quasquicentennial

Celebration

125 Years of

Building

Relationships

Welcome to our Quasquicentennial

4:00- -5:30

Tour the building

Yes, we have an elevator

- ◆ Take a little time to see the rich history and beautiful stage drops in our Third Floor Auditorium
- ◆ Visit the Library and photo gallery on Second Floor
- ◆ Examine the historic pages of our Scottish Rite in the Great Hall—see which of your friends, relatives and civic leaders attended meetings and were active members.

5:30- -6:00

Social in the Great Hall

6:00- -7:30

Dinner & Program

Program

Introductions and Welcoming Remarks

Michael Rodman, 33^o Venerable Master

Lifescape of Rapid City—Scottish Rite Charity

Sarah Wold-Hanson, OTR/L Therapy Manager

Observations and Remarks from our friends

David Ruth, Jr. 32^o—Mayor of Deadwood,

Celebratory Remarks from the Fraternity

Representing the Grand Master of Masons in South Dakota

**Deputy Grand Master-Grand Master Elect
of Masons in South Dakota**

R:: W:: B::Harold Ireland, 32^o

Illustrious Jeffery Larson, 33^o

**Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Orient of South Dakota**

*Thank you, each of you, for celebrating with us
Please travel safely*



Today we celebrate a significant anniversary for Scottish Rite Masonry—125 years of existence and work.

However, today is, at least, for Scottish Rite Masons, a celebration of an intangible force within this community that has made our tenure here real and vibrant and intense and meaningful. Today is an opportunity, we hope not the last, for us to open our doors, our minds and our hearts to what has been happening in this small, historic town for all of those 125 years.

Here, in this little town with enormous stories, sometimes stories too great for belief by even the most glib, there resides a population comprised of dedicated, caring, community-minded individuals.

Over the years when we have struggled with our property, you were there. Every single time we cried “help”, or even whispered it, you were there, Deadwood. Historic Preservation, Deadwood City government, Chamber of Commerce, community leaders and individuals of Deadwood; you were and always have been “there” for the Scottish Rite. When we needed financial support to keep our Masonic Temple viable, when the water gushed through our building, when we needed a little support and TLC...you were “there”!

Yes, it is our anniversary; but we know of no other group with whom we wish to celebrate than YOU. Thank you for caring! Thank you for sharing! Thank you for embodying the principals of our fraternity...thank you for being “practicing masons”!