

The Valley of Boston  
Ancient Accepted  
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry  
&

The Massachusetts Partner-Valleys of Lowell  
the Merrimack, Salem and Worcester

# GRAND MASTER'S CLASS

Saturday, November 9th, 2019



MOST WORSHIPFUL  
**PAUL F. GLEASON**



## Why Pursue Scottish Rite Masonry?



*Although there is no more important degree than that of the Master Mason, the additional 29 Scottish Rite degrees serve to enrich a Brother's comprehension of the philosophy and symbolic teaching he received when he was initiated into Freemasonry.*

*When you choose to further your Masonic experience by becoming a 32° Scottish Rite Mason\*\*, you will expand upon your knowledge of Freemasonry's fundamental principles. The moral and ethical lessons we learn together, will continuously remind us of our duties to family, country, humanity, nature and the Great Architect of the Universe. You do not have to receive all 29 degrees to become a 32° Mason. However, receiving a minimum of five degrees is **required**. You must receive the 4° and 32°, along with 3 additional degrees.*

*\*\* Despite its name (explained later in this brochure), the Scottish Rite welcomes all worthy Master Masons regardless of their ethnic origin.*

## The Origins of the Scottish Rite

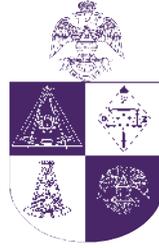
*A vague reference to the name "Scottish Rite" can be found in a manuscript dating back to 1733: "Lodge #115 meeting at the Devil Tavern near Temple Bar in London was described as a Scott's Masons Lodge." The exact origin of the name, however, still remains a mystery to this day.*

*A plausible explanation might be found in late 17th-century European history. When the British Isles were torn by political and religious conflicts, many Scots from the nobility, particularly from the Stuart dynasty, fled to France to seek King Louis XIV's protection. A few of them were already Freemasons. They resumed their Masonic activities in St. Germain-en-Laye, near Paris, and at Versailles, the seat of the French royal court. There, the exiled Scots created more Masonic degrees to expand upon the original three. The French nobility had a fascination for prestigious and grandiloquent titles, so to gain acceptance and attract French members to the Craft, the Scots glamorized their new rituals with impressive names such as Prince of Jerusalem, Prince of the Royal Axe, and Knight of the White and Black Eagle, to name a few. Their influence may have contributed to the use of their name for the degrees that eventually became known as the Scottish Rite or "higher" degrees of Freemasonry.*

*Sources from the 18th century also attest to the existence of a Scottish Rite being practiced in the port of Bordeaux, France, as early as 1743. In 1761 the French Masonic authorities in Paris granted Brother Stephen Morin - a wine merchant from that region - a patent naming him Grand Inspector and "authorizing and empowering him to establish perfect and sublime Masonry in all parts of the world." Morin traveled to America, taking the advanced degrees with him, first to the West Indies, one of the most important French colonies at the time, where he disseminated their lessons. Shortly thereafter, Morin made Henry Francken - a French-speaking Dutch Mason - a Deputy Inspector, which authorized him to spread the Rite into continental America. In 1767, he created a Lodge of Perfection in Albany, New York, which most historians agree was the seed that became the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the United States of America in 1801. The Scottish Rite is now well established throughout much of the world.*

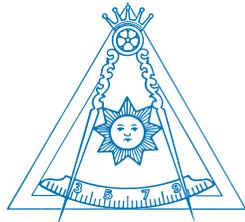


Today, the Scottish Rite is the principal branch of Freemasonry in which a Master Mason may perfect his Masonic knowledge. This path consists of the 4th through the 32nd degrees, which are conferred by the following four bodies.



## The Lodge of Perfection

The Lodge of Perfection confers the 4° through the 14°, commonly referred to as the ineffable degrees. In these eleven lessons, the candidate will observe many references, scenes, and characters that recall and build on the first three symbolic degrees he received in his Blue Lodge when he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.



## The Council of Princes of Jerusalem

The Council of Princes of Jerusalem confers the 15° and 16°, which teach lessons using settings based on the Babylonian captivity of the Hebrews and the building of the Second Temple.



## The Chapter of Rose Croix

The Chapter of Rose Croix confers the 17° and 18°. These degrees teach the spiritual lessons of practicing virtue, caring for humanity, and being tolerant of the faith and creed of others, because the soul of man is the only lasting Temple.



## The Consistory

The Consistory confers the 19° through the 32°. These degrees portray many memorable lessons, set in scenes ranging from the days of chivalry through the 20th century.

The 32° degree marks the completion of this High Degree education. The title of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret is then conferred upon the candidates, with all the rights, privileges, and duties attached to it. The officers of the Valley of Boston then present them with the prestigious 32° medal. In celebration of the event, Princes of the Royal Secret are encouraged to wear their medals at all Scottish Rite reunions.





# “We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our Members”



The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Benevolent Foundation supports several major charities and programs such as:

## The Children’s Dyslexia Centers, Inc.



Established by 32° Masons in 1994, these Children's Dyslexia Centers have been actively engaged in helping early elementary through high school-aged children and their families overcome the painful obstacles of dyslexia by providing specialized tutoring to help enable children with dyslexia read and write more effectively. These services are currently available at 42 centers in 15 states, and are provided free of charge to all children with dyslexia, regardless of economic status or Masonic affiliation. The program also continues to support clinical research that focuses on dyslexia. We strongly encourage you to volunteer and help make these centers even more successful.

## Family Life, Valley of Boston



The Family Life Program is an ongoing celebration of Scottish Rite Masons and their families. Its

goal is to organize events and cultural and artistic activities that our Brothers can share and enjoy with their family and friends outside the fraternity's regularly scheduled commitments. These activities, offered at a discounted price, are organized throughout the year.

Here are a few examples of past events:

- Blue Man Group
- Boston Pops
- Canobie Lake Park
- Great Wolf Lodge Indoor Water Park
- Kayaking down the Charles River
- Merrimack Repertory Theater
- Red Sox Game and Private Tours of Fenway Park
- Shrine Circus

## The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library



The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library in

Lexington, Massachusetts, opened its doors to the public in 1975 as a gift to the American people in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of our republic. It is almost exclusively funded by the Freemasons of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America. This American history museum offers changing exhibitions, which make it a unique attraction for people of all ages and interests. Visitors from all over the United States find it to be a true experience in discovery for anyone fascinated by American history and culture.

Its other convenient, state-of-the-art facilities include an auditorium for educational and community events, and a Museum library, which collects and preserves more than 60,000 books, 1,600 serial titles, and 2,000 cubic feet of archival materials on the history of America and fraternal organizations. Among its other precious documents and artifacts, its rare Masonic manuscripts are preserved in humidity- and temperature-controlled storage areas and vaults.

## The Scottish Rite Grand Almoner's Fund



The Scottish Rite Grand Almoner's Fund helps fulfill the obligation to care for our Brothers and their families that we took

under oath when we became Masons.

Every dollar donated goes toward helping those who have faced incredible hardships including personal tragedy; natural disasters such as Superstorm Sandy that ravaged the East Coast in 2012 or the 2017 hurricanes that flooded Louisiana, Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico; or many other emotional and financial challenges.

We make assistance available to those experiencing a personal difficulty as soon as we are made aware it. This fund exists to make certain that we assist and alleviate the suffering of distressed Brethren facing overwhelming adversity.