

History of Masonry in Juneau

The first Masonic Lodge in Alaska was chartered in Sitka in 1869, only two years after the territory was purchased from Russia. Many of the sourdoughs who pioneered Alaska and the Yukon were Masons. White Pass Lodge #1 in Skagway, Alaska and Yukon Lodge #45 in Dawson City, Yukon Territory were both organized in 1901 and to this day continue their Masonic work. Today, more than 2,000 current Alaska members, together with our brothers in Canada, uphold that proud legacy.

Masonry in Juneau has its roots with Gastineaux Lodge #124, Free and Accepted Masons (F&AM) of Washington, which first met under dispensation on December 9, 1902 in Douglas. In a ceremony officiated by the Right Acting Grand Master W. S. McKean of White Pass Lodge #113, Skagway, Alaska, Gastineaux Lodge #124 received its charter effective June 10, 1903. WM John H. Duckworth was the first Master of Gastineaux Lodge #124. Shortly thereafter, Mt. Juneau Lodge, #147, F&AM of Washington, was established in Juneau, first meeting under dispensation on March 14, 1905, receiving its charter June 10, 1905. WM Thomas H. George was the first Master of Mt. Juneau Lodge #147.

Gastineaux Lodge #124 met in the Odd Fellows Hall in Douglas until it was burned in the devastating fire of October 1926, a fire that ravaged the cities of Treadwell and Douglas. They then moved to the Douglas Eagles Hall and met there until 1950, when they moved to the Douglas Gross Theater. In 1963 the Scottish Rite Temple in Juneau, built in 1928, became the new home for the Douglas Masons.

In 1915 gold production peaked at the Alaska-Treadwell mine and the population of Douglas approached 3,500. However, catastrophe struck on April 21 and 22, 1917 when three of the four mines comprising the Alaska-Treadwell complex flooded, effectively ending production and closing the mine. The Douglas lodge suffered a significant drop in active members at that time. Many of the miners either left Alaska or moved to Juneau to work in the Alaska-Juneau or Alaska-Thane mines.

In January 1925 Gastineaux Lodge #124 held the distinction of being guided by the youngest Master of any lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Washington. At the youthful age of 24 Alexander Sey, became the Worshipful Master of Gastineaux Lodge #124, following in the footsteps of his father, Charles Sey, who was Master just two years prior.

In December of 1995 the two lodges merged to form Mt. Juneau – Gastineaux Lodge #124, F&AM of Washington. In January 2000 the members voted to move from the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Washington to the Grand Lodge of Alaska, becoming Mt. Juneau – Gastineaux Lodge #21, F&AM of Alaska.

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History of Scottish Rite Masonry in Alaska

Scottish Rite Masonry in Alaska has its roots right here in Juneau. The lodges in the Valley of Juneau were the first chartered lodges in the Territory of Alaska and were each numbered "1". The Alaska Lodge of Perfection, #1, received its charter on July 14, 1911. The first Venerable Master was Royal Arch Gunnison, 32°. The Alaska Chapter of Knights of Rose Croix, #1, received its charter on August 19, 1914. The first Wise Master was Richard John Wulzen, 32°. The Alaska Council of the Knights of Kadosh, #1, received its charter on November 22, 1915. The first Commander was James Cristoe, 32°. The Alaska Consistory, #1, received its charter on November 22, 1915. The first Master of Kadosh was Royal Arch Gunnison, 32°, KCCH. As the only Scottish Rite bodies in Alaska, membership grew to almost 2000 Brothers. The Degree teams traveled throughout the Territory and State, from Ketchikan to Nome to Fairbanks, by

steamship, train, automobile, and possibly dog sled, to teach the degrees of Scottish Rite Masonry to Brother Master Masons. With the growth of Scottish Rite Masonry in Alaska and other lodges being chartered, on November 9, 1973 the Sovereign Grand Commander amended each of the Juneau charters to reflect that the lodges were now within the Valley of Juneau, Orient of Alaska.