

1861

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

# Church Histories



## **Folsomdale Baptist Church, Cowlesville, NY**

In 1861 a group of people met together as a branch of the German Baptist Church at Bennington Center, and on November 20, 1867, they organized into a church with twelve members. The church called the Rev. Peter Ritter as its first pastor, offering him a salary of \$50 per year. He later said he received many times that amount because of the kindnesses given him and his family, with hardly a day going by without some food or other provisions brought to them. The members met in the Free Will Baptist church building on Sundays at 2 pm. Soon they knew they needed their own building. People willingly donated materials; one man sold the only cow he owned to give money for the church building which was completed and ready for use on July 16, 1869. Through the years the church has been served by many dedicated pastors, and though membership has never been large, members have been faithful in serving the Lord. Students from the Rochester Seminary often came to help in the church.

A 125th anniversary booklet in our Archives' files details many changes in the church: installation of a church bell, roof repair, new church benches, painting, and a church library (1907). In 1921 during Rev. John Huber's ministry, the pastor's salary amounted to \$1,000 per year, quite an increase from the first pastor's amount. The church celebrated its 125th anniversary on October 18, 1992,. The year of 2011 marked 150 years from that first group in 1861!

Adapted from *Heritage Horizons*, Vol 19, No 2, Fall, 2012.

### **Bibliographical sources:**

125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book, 1867-1992

### **Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:**

Web page, 2001