

1876

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

# Church Histories



## Steamboat Rock Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock, Iowa

The earliest beginnings of the Steamboat Rock Baptist Church are not easy to distinguish. It appears that around the year 1869, a small nucleus of believers began meeting in a schoolhouse six miles north of Steamboat Rock with a Brother Reinders as their preacher. About the same time a group of German Baptists from the “Ostfriesen Baptist Church of Silver Creek, Illinois,” now known as the Baileyville Baptist Church, migrated to Iowa and settled in Grundy County, in a section known as Pleasant Valley Township, located about four miles south of Aplington. Preaching services were soon begun in the “Dreyer” schoolhouse as a mission of the Silver Creek Church. In December 1874 this mission organized and became known as the “Pleasant Valley German Baptist Church.”

A mission of this church was soon established at Steamboat Rock. Because of the distance to Pleasant Valley, the members found it difficult to attend the services there with any degree of regularity. Thus arose the need for an independent church at Steamboat Rock. Accordingly, on November 18, 1876, seventeen spiritual pioneers, with letters of dismissal from the Pleasant Valley Church, founded the German Baptist Church in Steamboat Rock. The complete list of these 17 members has not been preserved, but their works do follow them. Hundreds today will rise up and call them blessed! (Excerpted from “Our Church History” appearing in 1951 (75<sup>th</sup>) and 2001 (125<sup>th</sup>) anniversary booklets)

Significant events in the life of the church:

- June 1878: Rev. P.J. DeNeui called as pastor on a salary of \$200 a year
- January 21, 1888: Ladies’ Aid Society was organized
- July 7-8, 1889: original building on present site was dedicated; total cost of building/lot was \$2409.10
- 1918: SS began teaching in English instead of German; preaching continued in German
- 1941-1951: (Pastorate of Rev. Howard Johnson) Name of church changed from the German Baptist Church to the First Baptist Church of Steamboat Rock

- February 1954: Dedication of new building; cost: about \$65,000
- 1996: new addition built and dedicated
- January 31, 2007: name changed to Steamboat Rock Baptist Church
- Nov. 15, 2015: Service of dedication of the new sanctuary and remodeled/repurposed “old” sanctuary

Written by Lucille D. Lengefeld (great-great-grand-daughter of P.J. DeNeui, pastor 1878-1885), NAB Heritage Commission [November, 2015]

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

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet—November 2-4, 1951

125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet—October 27-28, 2001

Print copies of church website—October 31, 2000 (Alan Steier, Pastor)

April 12, 2001 “ “

September 27, 2004 (Harrison Lippert, Pastor)

September 11, 2007 “ “

Record of members received: December 31, 1967—May 5, 1974

Record of marriages: July 13, 1968—September 28, 1974

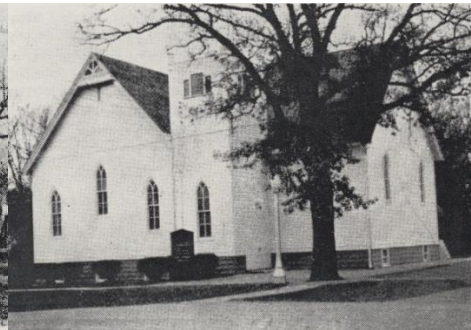
Annual Report: 1993 (2 copies), 1994

Dedication program, February 12-14, 1954 (2 copies)

Miscellaneous correspondence; assorted photos



First church building



Remodeled 1917



Building 1954



1994