

Rev. John Wesley Boteler

(- 12 Apr 1896)

Boteler. At 7 o'clock p.m., Sunday, April 12, 1896, at his residence, 227 2nd street northeast, from paralysis, Rev. J. Wesley Boteler, beloved husband of Susan H. Boteler, aged 67 years and 1 month.

The Evening Star, March 27, 1896

Rev. John Wesley Boteler III

Well-Known as a Minister and a Business Man

Rev. John Wesley Boteler, secretary of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of the District, a well-known citizen, formerly actively engaged in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, is critically ill at his residence, No. 227 2d street southeast, and his friends fear the worst. Mr. Boteler is one of the best-known preachers in the denomination. He entered the ministry under the old Baltimore conference of the M.E. Church in 1850, at the age of 21 years. He was the son of the late John D. Boteler, one of the old residents of Washington, and was born in this city in 1829. Two years after entering the conference he was transferred to the Iowa conference, and for several succeeding years was stationed at Dubuque and in other important cities. His health began to give way, however, and in 1858 he was at his own request, retransferred to the Baltimore conference, where he remained until 1861, when he left the latter and entered the Baltimore conference of the M.E. Church South, serving where assigned.

Soon after the outbreak of the war Mr. Boteler returned to Washington, and later became engaged in the shoe business, where he remained until elected secretary of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, a position which he has held ever since. For many years he has held a supernumerary relation in the conference, and for several years has been very active in work at Epworth M.E. Church South, corner of 7th and A streets northeast, of which Rev. J.O. Knott is pastor. He was a member of the building committee of the new building of the latter, and one of the most liberal contributors to the enterprise.

Mr. Boteler's family consists of his wife, who was a Miss Prince of Virginia; two daughters, Mrs. Fanny Maxson of Iowa, and Mrs. Gertrude Mason of Superior, Wis., and three sons, W.P., Harry L. and L. Pierce Boteler. The daughters and Mr. Harry L. Boteler, who is absent from the city, have been telegraphed for, and the latter and Mrs. Mason are expected to reach Washington today. Mr. Boteler also has two brothers, James E., a District officer, and E.M. Boteler, an undertaker of this city. Mr. Boteler has been seriously ill only since Sunday last. He was sick with the grip several weeks ago, but grew better and went to his office. Sunday, however, he was again taken ill.

The Evening Star, April 13, 1896

Death of Rev. Mr. Boteler

The Sad News Announced at the Epworth Church Services Yesterday

Rev. John Wesley Boteler, the veteran and widely known minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, whose critical illness has been referred to from time to time in The Star for several weeks past, died last evening at his home, No. 227 2d street southeast, in his 67th year.

By a singular coincidence, the choir of Epworth M.E. Church South, of which Mr. Boteler was the beloved leader, were engaged in singing at the church one of Mr. Boteler's favorite hymns, "Forever with the Lord," at the very moment that the spirit of Mr. Boteler passed away.

The news of the death was sent to the church by a special messenger, who reached there just as Rev. Dr. Canter, who was officiating in the absence of the pastor, Rev. J.O. Knott, was about to pronounce the benediction. Dr. Canter announced the sad intelligence to the audience in feeling and appropriate language.

The news was a great shock to the members of the congregation, although it had been feared for some time that Mr. Boteler could not recover.

The funeral will take place, probably, tomorrow from Epworth Church, and the services will be in charge of Rev. J.O. Knott, though it is expected that Rev. Dr. Rumsey Smithson, presiding elder of Washington district; Rev. Dr. Canter of Mount Vernon Place Church and perhaps other ministers will participate.

As heretofore stated in a full sketch of the life of Mr. Boteler, which appeared in The Star about two weeks ago, the deceased entered the ministry in 1850. For many years, however, he has had a supernumerary relation in the conference, and has occupied the position of secretary of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He has, however, been quite prominent in church affairs, especially in connection with those of Epworth. Mr. Boteler leaves a widow, three sons and two daughters, all grown, and two brothers, Messrs. James E. and E.M. Boteler.