

Pioneer Roots of Monticello
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Rev. CHARLES BOLES

Born in Illinois, the Rev. Charles Boles' first appointment in Kansas was as a missionary to the Shawnee Indians in present Johnson County, beginning in 1852 and continuing for the next 5 years. As minister of the Methodist Episcopal South Church, Rev. Boles' ministry in Kansas lasted 50 years until his death on February 26, 1902 at Stanley, Kansas.

Rev. Boles, his wife, Anna and their children farmed and resided near present 55th and Clare Road. The cemetery commonly called the King Cemetery was located in the south east corner of Rev. Boles' farm. Members of the King family and Boles family are buried there.

During his 50 years in Kansas, Rev. Boles served many appointments. One appointment was to the Methodist Church at Monticello for the conference year 1879-1880. It was during this appointment that the first Monticello Methodist Church was built and Rev. Bole preached the first sermon in the new building.

The church had been organized in 1865, but it was not until 1880 that the first building was constructed. The first building accidentally burned and was rebuilt on the same site. The Old Church Chapel stands on that site today.