

BECHDOLT, FRED R

Fred R. BECHDOLT, member of the law firm of Schwartz & Bechdolt, at Portland, and one of the best known young lawyers of Jay county, a member of the bar of the Jay Circuit Court since 1915 and former deputy prosecuting attorney for this county, is a native son of Jay county and has lived here all his life. Mr. BECHDOLT was born at Portland on July 17, 1893, and is a son of Samuel E. and Lydia (LaFOLLETTE) BECHDOLT, both of whom also were born in this county. The BECHDOLT's came here from Pennsylvania and the LaFOLLETTE's from Virginia. Samuel E. BECHDOLT is a well-known building contractor, who for years has been engaged in that line at Portland. Fred R. BECHDOLT was reared at Portland and was graduated from the high school at that place in 1911. He then entered Indiana University, taking there the Liberal Arts course, and upon leaving the university entered upon the study of law under the preceptorship of R. D. Wheat at Portland, and on March 4, 1915, was admitted to the bar of the Jay Circuit Court, shortly afterward receiving the appointment as deputy prosecuting attorney for this county, a service which he rendered for two years, at the end of which time he became associated with his uncle, Judge John F.

LaFOLLETTE, in the practice of law at Portland. This mutually agreeable association continued until the death of Judge LaFOLLETTE in July, 1917, after which Mr. BECHDOLT formed a partnership with C. E. Schwartz, which association continues. On January 8, 1918, Fred R. BECHDOLT enlisted his services in behalf of America's participation in the World war, enlisting in the air service, and thus rendered service until honorably discharged, the war then being over. In June, 1919, he returned to Portland and resumed his law practice. Mr. BECHDOLT is a member of the Presbyterian church, a member of the college fraternity Phi Delta Kappa, and is affiliated with the local post of the American Legion and the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He also is a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Country Club at Portland and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a proper interest. For years Mr. BECHDOLT has taken an active interest in local civic affairs and has long been regarded as one of the younger leaders of the Democratic party in this county. In May, 1920, he was elected chairman of the Jay county Democratic central committee and is now serving his party in that important capacity. SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls.1922, Vol. II, p.184. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.