

BOTKIN, JOHN H

John H. BOTKIN, of the firm of Martin & Botkin, clothing merchants at Portland, and one of the best known figures in the commercial life of Jay county, was born in the neighboring county of Randolph on October 17, 1856, and is a son of Samuel T. and Martha A. (BIRD) BOTKIN, the former of whom was born in that same county, a member of one of the pioneer families there, and the latter in Henry county, this state. Samuel T. BOTKIN completed his schooling in the normal school at Muncie, walking weekly the twenty-eight miles from his home to that city and carrying with him provisions sufficient for the week, and upon leaving school became engaged in the mercantile business, a vocation he followed all his active life. He started in as a clerk in a store at Huntsville, in Randolph county, later as a clerk in a store at Farmland, and presently became engaged in business for himself at Farmland, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1896. He and his wife were the parents of five children, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Edward and Dr. W. J. BOTKIN. Reared at Farmland, John H. BOTKIN received his schooling in the schools of that place and in 1876, he then being twenty years of age, engaged in the mercantile business at Redkey in association with J. S. Davis. He remained at Redkey until 1884 when he went to Winchester to take charge of a store in that city and there remained for two years, at the end of which time he returned to Farmland and after two years of further business experience there became employed in the store of Cartwright & Headington at Portland. For twenty-six years Mr. BOTKIN retained this connection or until 1916, when he formed a partnership with Mr. Martin, under the firm name of Martin & Botkin, and engaged in the clothing and general gents' furnishing business at Portland and is still thus occupied. Mr. BOTKIN is a Republican and is a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Country Club at Portland. He and his family have a pleasant home and take an interested part in the city's general social activities. Mr. BOTKIN married Virginia E. DOUGHERTY and to this union were born four daughters, Mabel, Ethel, Opal and Hazel, the first named of whom is the wife of L. N. DeVORE. Ethel BOTKIN married Roland C. STREETER and has two children, Virginia and Mary Frances STREETER. BIRD, BOTKIN, DeVORE, DOUGHERTY, STREETER SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, p.223. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut