

MARTIN, FREDERICK

Frederick MARTIN, senior member of the firm of Martin & Botkin, dealers in clothing and men's furnishings at Portland, former treasurer of Jay county and former representative from this district in the Indiana General Assembly, is a native son of Jay county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has lived in this county all his life. Mr. MARTIN was born in a log cabin on an un-cleared farm in the Mt. Zion neighborhood in Noble township on September 29, 1853, and is a son of George and Caroline (STOLZ) MARTIN, Alsatians, the former of whom is still living, being now in his ninety-second year. George MARTIN was born in the French province of Alsace on February 12, 1830, and was sixteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents, Solomon MARTIN and wife, in 1846, the family coming on out into Indiana and settling on land in Noble township, this county, among the early settlers of that community. There George MARTIN grew to manhood. He married Caroline STOLZ, who also was born in Alsace and who had come to this county with her parents in the days of her girlhood, and after his marriage began farming on his own account, buying for \$400 a forty-acre tract of woodland on which he built a log cabin and established his home. With energy not so often exhibited in this generation this pioneer reserved the labor of clearing his place to the night hours, continuing for some time to work as a farm hand for others during the days, and in time he had the place cleared and a going farm started. As his sons, Frederick and Henry, came on in their turn they assisted in the labors of developing the place and helped gradually to add to the same by purchase of adjoining land until now the MARTIN's have a well improved farm of better than 200 acres. On this farm George MARTIN continued to make his home until 1865 when he moved to New Corydon, where he engaged in mercantile business and was thus occupied until his retirement in 1919, continuing, however, to make his home at New Corydon, where he is now living, one of the oldest and one of the best known men in Jay county. His aged wife died in 1917. They had been married sixty-five years and were the parents of seven children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Katherine, Louise (deceased), Sophia, Margaret, Elizabeth and Henry MARTIN, auditor of Jay county and further mention of whom is found elsewhere in this volume.

Frederick MARTIN's common schooling was completed in the schools of New Corydon and this he supplemented by a course in bookkeeping in a business college and a course in a normal school, after which he became associated with his father in the store at New Corydon and remained there until his election in 1894, as the nominee of the Republican party, to the office of treasurer of Jay county and moved to Portland, though retaining his interest in the store at Corydon. He was re-elected in the following election and thus served for two terms in this important office, after which he became employed in the store of Cartwright & Headington at Portland, where he remained for sixteen years and during which time he was elected to represent this district in the House of Representatives of the Indiana General Assembly, serving in the legislature during the years 1905-06. In 1916 Mr. MARTIN formed a partnership with John H. Botkin, who

also for years had been a Cartwright & Headington employee and the two became engaged in the clothing and men's furnishing business at Portland, doing business under the firm style of Martin & Botkin, and are still thus engaged. During the period of America's participation in the World war Mr. MARTIN served on the Jay county draft board. As indicated above, he is a Republican. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and is a member of the Lutheran church, in which for years he has been an office bearer, having served in about all the church offices, including that of the eldership, and for years also was superintendent of the Sunday school.

Mr. MARTIN has been twice married. He first was united in marriage to Anna FENNIG, daughter of Philip FENNIG, and to those union two children was born, Clara and Herbert C. Following the death of the mother of these children Mr. MARTIN married Ruth AXE, daughter of Frederick AXE. Clara MARTIN married A. E. CHEW and has two children, Clarel and Robert. Herbert C. MARTIN married Louise GIFT and has two children, Alice Caroline and Herbert Meredith.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.221-222. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.

Fred MARTIN of the firm of MARTIN & BOTKIN, has the distinction of being the oldest store clerk in Jay County. His father, one of the pioneers of the county, was engaged in the store business for many years at New Corydon at a time when that place was an important trading place. Mr. MARTIN says: "I was born on September 29, 1853 in a log cabin that my father built on what is now known as the BRUMM farm in Noble township. The cabin had a puncheon floor and a mud chimney. We lived there until I was eight years old when my father sold this farm of 40 acres to Mr. BRUMM and bought an 80 acre farm that is now known as the Money SMITH farm. We lived on this farm about four years when my father had the misfortune to lose a limb rendering him unable to farm. In 1865 he sold the farm for \$2,500 cash and bought a half interest in the general store at New Corydon from my uncle Adam STOLZ. We moved to New Corydon in 1865 and took possession of the store. I was then a boy of 12 or 13 when I began to work in the store for George STOLZ & Co. I clerked in the store until 1875 when we bought uncle George STOLZ interest and the firm became George MARTIN & Son. I have been engaged in the merchandising business ever since with the exception of four years from 1894 to 1898 when the good people of Jay county elected me county treasurer. . . ."

Portland Daily Sun, Centennial Edition, Jay County, Indiana; September 21, 1936