

HON. JAMES ROLLIN BOBO, an active and enterprising citizen of Decatur who is prominently identified with the bar of Adams County, was born in the city of Athens, Athens County, Ohio, June 4, 1839. His parents, Townshend Garnier Bobo and Hanna Almira (Gorslene) Bobo, having been born in the same State. In 1851 the family moved to Crown Point, Lake County, Indiana, where the father died in 1858, leaving his widow and five children, Anna Maria, James Rollin, Caroline A., Helen M. and Almira T., all of whom are now married at living in Indiana. In 1854 the family removed from Lake County to Adams County where they, except Caroline and Maria, have since resided. James R. Bobo received fair common-school education in his youth attending the school at Crown Point for three school years between 1851 and 1854, when he accompanied his family to Adams County. From 1854 until 1857 he worked as a farm laborer during the summer months and in the winter attended the district schools, and in the winter of 1857 he taught in the district where he had formerly attended as a pupil. In 1858 he commenced the study of law with Judge David Studabaker, of Decatur, who was an able, kind and appreciative preceptor, and being a zealous student he made rapid progress in his studies. During the years 1858-'59 and '60 he studied law and attended school at Decatur, and part of this time taught in the public schools of this place, at the same time pursuing his law studies, and August 8, 1860, he was admitted in the Adams Circuit Court to practice law. September 22, 1861, he was united in marriage to Miss Almira Cayton, daughter of William and Maria Cayton. They are the parents of eleven children - Mrs. Minnie E. Eson, living in Kingman, Kansas; Howard C. Bobo, deceased; Rollin T., Jessie P., Gertrude R. F., Helen E., Benjamin E., Bernice E., Eugene I., Erin and James W. In September, 1862, the board of commissioners of Adams County appointed Judge Bobo superintendent of the public schools, which position he filled until September, 1866. At the October election of 1866 he was elected to represent Adams County in the Indiana State Legislature, and in 1870 he was elected to represent Adams and Wells counties in the State Legislature, and in 1870 he was elected to the State Senate from the district composed of Adams, Wells and Allen counties. At the expiration of his Senatorial term he returned to his home in Decatur, and has since devoted his entire attention to the a practice of law, establishing a large and lucrative practice. In 1876 he was elected Judge of the Twenty-sixth Judicial Circuit, and was re-elected to the same office in 1882. In every enterprise of progress and improvement in his locality Judge Bobo has given his aid and encouragement, and as a citizen he is highly respected by all who know him. We trust there are yet before him many years of labor and usefulness.