

Judge John R. **Bonney**
Of Firm of **Rose Bonney**



Education may be taken to be the element upon which the social standing in a purely democratic country depends. In this respect the bar stands high. Almost all of the statesmen and men of rank and worth, of the present as well as the last generation, have been drawn from the ranks of the bench and bar.

Among the prominent attorneys practicing at the Clay County Bar worthy of mention, is Judge John R. **Bonney**.

Mr **Bonney** was born in Monroe County April 27, 1848, and here he began his earlier education in the local district schools. At the age of 12 years his parents moved to Jackson County, where he finished his common school education. He moved to Clay County in 1864. John, when only 16 years of age enlisted in the Army, 115th IL Reg. Co. E and was sent to General **Dudley's** command at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He served with his regiment until it was mustered out September 1st, 1865, and after returning home took a one year's course of study at Shurtliff College, Upper Alton, after which he taught school for a time.

In 1881 he was elected to the office of justice of the peace, and has since been re-elected four times, having held the office from that date. He has also served as town treasurer for 17 years. In 85 he was admitted as practicing pension attorney, and has been successful in that line. During all of this time Mr **Bonney** was engaged as a successful farmer and stock raiser, and was also studying law.. In May 1896, he was admitted to the bar and since that time has devoted his time to the study and practice of his profession. He was elected Judge in 1898, and a more competent man could not have been found to fill that office. He was first married in 1869, and he was again married to Miss Jennie **Wolf** in 1890. Six children resulting from first union, and one by second.

Judge **Bonney** has won many friends and a good class of clients. He is well read in his profession, is a diligent student and discriminating practitioner. He tries his cases with a great deal of aptness, is a fluent, easy and logical speaker, and an honorable gentleman in all his dealings with mankind.