

JAMES M. KELLY was a native of Indiana county, son of James Kelly and one of the early settlers of the county. At an early day the attention of George Armstrong, a lawyer of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, who attended the courts at Indiana, was arrested by the sprightliness of young Kelly and his skill as a performer on the violin. Armstrong, who was without children, induced young Kelly to go to Greensburg and become a member of his family, where he assisted him in obtaining an education and in the study of the law. Upon being admitted to the bar, he returned to Indiana and engaged in the practice of the law, where he had a brilliant but brief career.

He was tall, slender, graceful, and most winning in his ways. He was bright and took the hearts of the people by storm. Although a member of the minority party, a federalist, he was irresistible as a candidate, and was triumphantly elected to the State Legislature, in a strong democratic district. In 1820 he visited Cuba, in company with Dr. Robert Mitchell, for the benefit of his health, but consumption had marked him for her own, and soon after his return home, in the same year, he breathed his last, aged thirty-five years.