James Madison Bedichek, Private, Co. A 5 MO Infantry, CS

1845  Bedichek was born to Frederick and Matilda Jividen Bedichek in Jackson County, VA.

1850  July 6: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Putnam County, VA showed five-year-old James M., living with his father and siblings. His father, Fred, was a cabinet maker. His mother had died by this time.

Bedichek family moved from Virginia to Missouri at some point before 1860.

1860  June 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Johnson County, MO showed 16-year-old J.M. living with his father and siblings. His father was listed as a farmer.

1862  September 18: Brother, Frederick, enlisted in the C.S. Army and mustered into Co E, 10 MO infantry as a corporal.

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1863  July 4: Frederick was captured at Helena, AR he was sent to prison in Alton, IL and then on to Fort Delaware. Confederate records have him listed as missing as of July 28, 1863.

August 21: Bedichek was wounded in the thigh participating with Quantrill on his vicious raid into Lawrence, KS.

*Bedichek was living in Columbus, MO at the time of the raid. After the attack on Lawrence, Quantrill fled with his men into Texas. In the aftermath of Lawrence, the Confederate Government pulled its support of Quantrill. Bedichek at some point separated from Quantrill and made his way to Alabama, where he enlisted in the Confederate Army.
3 Both images of raid found multiple locations online/no copyright1870
1863  February 5: Enlisted in the C.S. Army in Mobile, AL.

March & April: Company Muster Roll. Present.


November 30: Wounded at the Battle of Franklin.

December 17: Captured in Franklin.


1865  May 22: Signed Oath of Allegiance
1870 June 15: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Logan County, IL showed James as a school teacher.

1872 March 11: Married Lucretia Craven in Cass County, IL.

1880 June 8: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Clayton County, IL showed J.M., a teacher, and Lucretia living with their three young children.

1886 July 13: Appointed U.S. Postmaster in Falls County, TX.

1900 June 11: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Falls County, TX showed James and Lucretia both as teachers.

1910 May: the U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Falls County, TX showed J.M. and Lucretia as school teachers in a private school.

1916 November 13: James Madison Bedichek died in Luna, NM. He was buried in Eddy, TX.

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6 The Deming Headlight, Deming, NM Friday 17 Nov 1916, pg. 7
HE MADE THE WORLD BETTER

Now and then a patriarch passes from this old world who leaves a thousand monuments behind.

Such a man was the late Prof. J. M. Bedichek. No marble monuments or bronze tablets need be erected in his memory. Hundreds and hundreds of students who got their inspiration that lead to success from honest instruction at Prof. Bedichek’s Academy will revere his memory as long as they live, and generations to follow will be better because they knew and loved this noble soul.

How many students he actually carried through college will never be known except to those who are the beneficiaries.

For half a century Prof. Bedichek worked in the educational field and the fruit of his labors was a better citizenship and a more intelligent understanding of what constitutes honest devotion to duty.

When the grand old man left the Bedichek Academy at Eddy and came to Deming, did he sit around and grumble at conditions, as a man much less three score and ten might have done? He did not. He went to empire building forthwith and set an example of success that put many a younger man to shame.

He died almost in harness and thousands there are to call him blessed.