## Kansas Memory



## James Butler 'Wild Bill' Hickok

This formal portrait shows James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok,1837-1876. The legendary lawman and gun-slinger begins his career in 1858 as peace officer of the Monticello Township in the Kansas Territory of Johnson County. For a number of years Hickok also works as a government scout, guide and deputy U.S. marshal across the Great Plains. His reputation as a skilled marksman proceeds him wherever goes. In 1869 Hickok is elected marshal of Hays, Kansas and sheriff of Ellis County, Kansas; roles he serves until 1870. In 1871, he is hired as Abilene, Kansas' town marshal. As marshal he earns fame for being a quick draw and for spending most of his time playing cards. Hickok is killed on August 01, 1876 while playing a game of poker at a saloon in the Deadwood, Dakota Territory.

Date: Between 1870 and 1875

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