

FLORENTINE HOTCHKISS, a resident on section 12, Packwaukee township, Marquette county, Wis., member of G. A. R. Post No. 64, at Montello, Wis., was born May 20, 1839, in Greene, Chenango Co., New York. His father, Willis Hotchkiss, was born Oct. 16, 1806, near Catskill, New York, and was the son of a Revolutionary soldier; in 1850 he removed to Green Lake county, Wisconsin, with his family, reaching that location in June and, in the fall of the same year went to Packwaukee, where he located on pre-empted land, which he redeemed from its primitive condition, and on which he was a resident more than 30 years, his death occurring on the homestead, April 3, 1881; about 1830 he married Samantha Mallory. (See sketch of Simeon Pond.) Their marriage took place in the State of New York, and the wife and mother died on the homestead Jan. 11, 1886, aged 80 years; four of their five children are still living; Frederick died March 9, 1853, when 18 years old. Mrs. Mary Jane (Hotchkiss) Wells, lives at Fond du Lac; Mrs. Pond resides at Westfield; Harriet married Charles Richards of Wausau, Wis.

Mr. Hotchkiss resided with his parents until he entered the army. He was brought up on the farm subject to all the experiences of the son of a pioneer farmer, and was a little more than 21 years old when he decided to become a soldier; he enlisted Nov. 1, 1861, in Company C, 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry, enrolling at Kingston, where the company was enlisted, and go-

ing to the camp of rendezvous at Janesville. He went thence with the command to St. Louis, where he remained about a month, when orders were received to proceed to Fort Leavenworth, where he received his horse, which completed his cavalry equipment. Soon after reaching that place, the battalion to which his company was attached, went to Fort Scott, which was headquarters during his period of service. Fort Scott was at that time on the extreme frontier. Mr. Hotchkiss was in the charge at "Church in the Woods," and in the skirmish at Montevallo, and afterwards was in the raid under General Blunt to Van Buren. The service which Mr. Hotchkiss performed, including skirmishing with bushwhackers and guard and garrison duty, and he also acted as a scout and escort on emigrant and United States mail trains, and he was in considerable service in Missouri. In September, 1863, he was sent with a detail from his battalion to Baxter Springs to reinforce that post and they were attacked by the rebel guerrillas under Quantrell, who rode their horses onto the very breastworks of the fortification. When they left that place, Quantrell and his guerrillas, disguised in Federal uniforms, attacked General Blunt with an escort of about 100 men, including Company I, who were left to face the rebels alone and stood until the rebels advanced to a hand-to-hand encounter and after the fight was over Mr. Hotchkiss assisted in the burial of about 80 of the dead. In Price's raid in Missouri in September, 1864, he was with his battalion at Lexington under Rosecrans and when Lexington was reached, it was found that Price had fled to the Big and Little Blue Rivers and he was in the skirmishes there, and at Independence and chased Price to Kansas City where Curtis's troops made a stand and were re-enforced by Pleasanton and Price was driven and overtaken at Mine Creek, where a large amount of ammunition and a considerable number of prisoners were captured. On this march the command was short of rations until they met the supply train and the chief part of the detail went with the train to Fort Smith as escort, returning to Fort Scott to be mustered out. Mr. Hotchkiss had his first encounter with the rebels at Montevallo. While doing garrison duty at Fort Scott, Aug. 24, 1863, Mr. Hotchkiss was attacked with chronic diarrhoea and was in the hospital until the last of the following

March. Twice during the time he was offered a discharge.

He was discharged at Madison Feb. 16, 1865, having served more than his period of enlistment by several months. He returned to Packwaukee and resumed his occupation as farmer on the homestead which his father pre-empted and which is still his home. He was married July 21, 1869, to Emma Haddon at Portage, Wis., and they have four children; Willis E. was born Sept. 3, 1870; Flossie, Aug. 29, 1874; Lettie, May 20, 1876; Walter, June 5, 1880.