

Original Pictures of the 7th Michigan



Seymour Torrance
7th Michigan Infantry

At the age of 44, Seymour Torrance enlisted in Company H, 7th Michigan Volunteers, as a musician. He later transferred to Company G. The 7th was sent to Washington to join the Army of the Potomac, wherein they would be at the forefront of the greatest battles of the war.

As would be expected of a man of Torrance's years, he was often ill, was absent several months in 1862, and on July 16, 1863 transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps. There he served until the end of the war. The tintype above was made during his tenure in the VRC. Found behind it was a newspaper clipping of a speech made by Torrance in October of 1891, on the occasion of his wedding anniversary:

"My age was 82 last April. I was married to a pretty girl 60 years ago today in the state of New York, came to Michigan in 1836, settled in the wild woods of Brandon, Oakland County, and raised a large family of children, tough, ragged and saucy. I run once for Town Clerk on the Abolition ticket and got left. In 1861 I with four of my best boys went into the army and altogether put in over 12 years service for Uncle Sam, myself putting in 4 years and 3 months. All came out alive, and are alive today, but not sound. I played the drum as pretty as I could, beat all the boys on the jack knife whittle [*a drum stroke*], likewise can beat the world on my style of whittle. Now let the next step to the front and make a few remarks."

—*Michael Benedicto*

Original Pictures of the 7th Michigan



7th Michigan Regiment Band