

"Fine Books Since 1969"



Broadfoot

P U B L I S H I N G C O M P A N Y

1907 Buena Vista Circle, Wilmington, NC 28411-7892 (910)686-4816 (910)686-9591 Fax: (910)686-4452
Visit our website: www.broadfootpublishing.com e-mail: bpc@ec.rr.com

August 2019

HEARTSILL Newsletter 503

Dear Folks,

Sometimes, as many of you well know, your relationship with a book can overpower and overshadow the actual book.

So it is with myself and *1491 Days*; I wrote 6 pages concerning this volume and on reading it a week later realized it was not a biographical description of *1491 Days*, of which many excellent descriptions exist, nor information on Heartsill the person, but a rambling about my relationship and history with both Heartsills. The book; tracking down three originals, buying the McCowat-Mercer copyrights so I could enlarge the type, write an introduction and reprint *1491 Days*, later discovering and purchasing an incomplete copy of Heartsill's *1491 Days* manuscript, which made possible the publication of a Limited Manuscript Edition of *1491 Days*. As to Heartsill the person, compiling biographical information and researching and admiring the physical input and organizational skills it took to print 100 copies of a 268 page book with 63 photographs tipped in each volume by hand, this feat accomplished in the small Texas town of Marshall in 1876.

I acquired this volume almost a year ago and almost daily I hold it and purr as I touch the pages and photographs that Heartsill touched.

Time for someone else to purr.
I need to make a living.

Old Tom

THUS

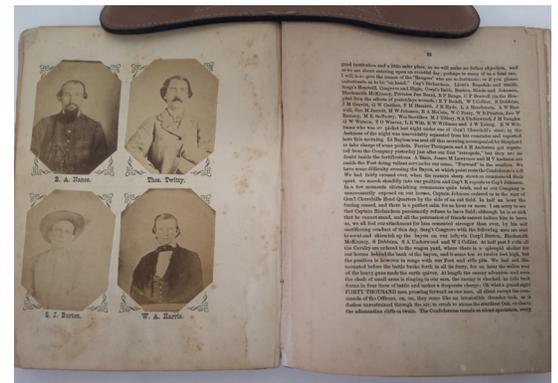
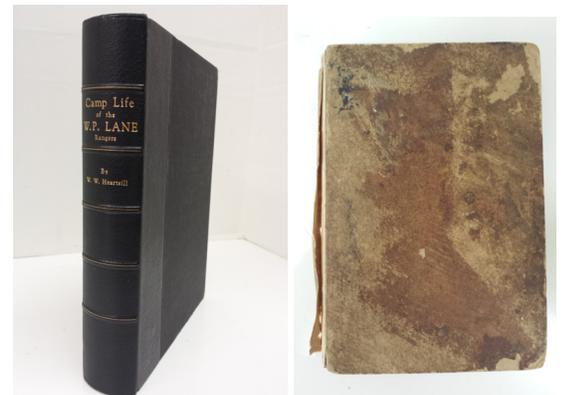
Fourteen Hundred and 91 Days

– in original binding from Heartsill's family

Description: A copy in original boards retaining Heartsill's handmade crude original linen spine. Most uncommon in original binding – almost all copies appearing on the market have been rebound. The spine is quite faded and the lettering is illegible. A few marginal chips, one affecting one word of text, older minor repairs. Toned (per usual). Clear acid-free mylar dust jacket used to protect fragile linen spine. In custom 1/2 leather clamshell box, black with gold spine lettering, five raised bands highlighted with gold bands.

Included are over 50 pages of family provenance and genealogy, correspondence, copies of reviews and newspaper clippings, as well as multiple pictures related to Heartsill and the W. P. Lane Rangers (copies of Reunion pictures, etc.) This copy was given by Heartsill to a family member, Paul Heartsill Ross, proof being a signed dated letter stating this copy belonged to Paul Heartstill Ross, a descendent of the author, W. W. Heartsill, as attested to by his son, Paul Anthony Heartsill Ross.

\$75,000.00



Broadfoot Publishing Company 910-686-4816 or bpc@ec.rr.com

FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND 91 DAYS IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY

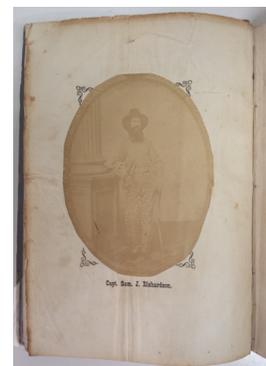
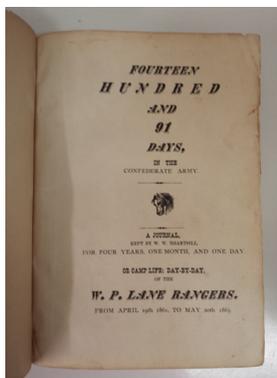
by William Williston Heartsill

“Unique is a much abused adjective, but it can be safely applied to the Confederate journal of William Williston Heartsill.”
– Dr. Bell I. Wiley

“Printed by the author, page by page; one of the rarest journals by a Confederate combatant.”
– Wright Howes,
U.S. Iana, #H-380

“This book would be of considerable interest because of the homespun way in which it was produced even if it were devoid of any other virtues. It is, however, a good narrative in its own right – or the early days of the war in Texas...”
– Richard Harwell,
In Tall Cotton, #86

“W. W. Heartsill’s *FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND 91 DAYS IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY* is the rarest and most coveted book on the American Civil War.”
– John Jenkins,
The Most Remarkable Texas Book



Heartsill, W[illiam] W[illiston] **FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND 91 DAYS IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY. A Journal Kept by W. W. Heartsill for Four Years, One Month, and One Day, or Camp-Life; Day-by-Day of the W. P. Lane Rangers. From April 19th, 1861 to May 20th, 1865.** [Marshall, TX: W.W. Heartsill, 1876.] Privately Printed. [8] 264 [1] pages. First Edition. Limited to 100 hand-made copies. 61 original photographs mounted on 19 plates (including Capt. Sam J. Richardson in his leopard-skin britches). All photographs with printed identification beneath picture except the final picture which has Heartsill’s hand-written identification in Heartsill’s hand. Howes H-380. Dornbusch II, 1046. In Tall Cotton 86. Coulter 224. Nevins I, p. 102. Raines, p. 111. Winkler Friend 3778. “Printed by the author, page by page, on a hand-press; one of the rarest journals by a Confederate combatant.”
– Howes.

Dr. Bell I. Wiley, foremost Confederate historian, excerpt from his 17-page introduction to the McCowat-Mercer *1491 Days* reprint:

“‘Unique’ is a much abused adjective, but it can be safely applied to the Confederate journal of William Williston Heartsill. The title is strikingly unique; so is the method by which the diary becomes a book. Heartsill printed the journal himself, one page at a time, on an “Octavo Novelty Press,” a crude machine which cost about ten dollars. The press was kept at Heartsill’s store, and the printing done at odd time when business was slack. Sometimes the completion of a single page required several days; and the printing of the whole book extended over the period December 9, 1874-

Broadfoot Publishing Company 910-686-4816 or bpc@ec.rr.com

July 1, 1876.’ “Moreover, Heartsill included in each copy sixty-one different original photographs. During the lengthy printing of the book Heartsill encouraged his former comrades-in-arms to send him photographs of themselves. Sixty-one complied, and Heartsill—lacking any better method—had a hundred prints of each photograph made and pasted them down, four to a page, with the name of each man printed beneath his portrait. “The journal itself is historically important. Heartsill wrote it on the scene in small notebooks that he kept in his pocket. These were sent back from the front to Texas, one by one, as they filled up. This four-year record is one of the most vivid and intimate accounts of Civil War battle-life.”

Tom Broadfoot, excerpt from his introduction to the Broadfoot Publishing Company *1491 Days* reprint: Heartsill’s 1876 prophecy that he would never print a second edition of *FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND 91 DAYS* was true, not only for himself but for everyone else, until 1953 when McCowat-Mercer Press issued a facsimile reprint edited and introduced by Bell I. Wiley. If it seems strange that the volume which earned Wright-Howes’ accolade as “one of the rarest journals by a Confederate combatant” should in spite of rarity, demand, and price remain unregenerated for almost one hundred years, one should remember that reprinting didn’t come of age until the fifties and the West and the Civil War didn’t catch fire until the sixties.

In 1980, the Jenkins Company published a monograph by its proprietor John entitled *THE MOST REMARKABLE TEXAS BOOK*. This essay on *1491 Days* was limited to sixty-four copies, each of which contained a leaf taken from an incomplete volume of the original edition. Both Wiley’s introduction to the McCowat-Mercer edition and Jenkins’ essay are here reprinted. Though they overlap to some extent, they each merit publication in full. Wiley and Jenkins both note, and so shall I, that the original edition of *FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND 91 DAYS* was printed one page at a time. “It (*1491 DAYS*) was printed page-at-a-time on an Octavo Novelty Press, and each time, the machinery was brought to a full stop for re-inking with a hand roller. The type had to be distributed after each press run in order to set the next page.” In short, after printing a page, Heartsill would dump the letters, sort them one by one into the alphabet and then set the text for the next page, one letter at a time. We have few facts concerning Heartsill’s physique but we do know, needing no proof beyond his book, that he was possessed of a steady hand, a fine set of eyes and the patience of Job.

Heartsill is just out and out the damndest job of printing since Gutenberg did the Bible. Imagine one individual cutting, sorting and pasting into its proper place, one by one, six thousand one hundred photographs; collating one hundred sets of two hundred sixty-five pages, gathering the whole together and sewing it into a book, affixing boards and labels – all accomplished in the heat and cold of 1876 Texas.

The reputation and esteem accorded Heartsill’s tome is especially remarkable as his unit, the W. P. Lane Rangers, in four years of war were in but one fight. That engagement terminated with their surrender and provided the only battle fatality of the original two hundred and six Rangers during the course of the war. The Rangers spent the first year of the war defending the frontier against Indians, during which time, according to Heartsill, they saw but one Indian and she was a small Apache girl who had been wounded and “captured.”

The heart of Heartsill’s narrative lies not in his battle description but in his observations of people, the frontier, prison life, and the Confederate home front.

Heartsill, especially in the final year of his narrative, is forced several time to defend the Ranger’s lack of battle service, noting “...we are reaping no honors, but are continually abused by scores of blockheads at home, and in the Army; because we are not at the front...” On May 23rd, 1864, Hearstill hopes “But we may yet, ere the war is over, prove that the W.P. Lane Rangers are worthy the name of the oldest company from eastern Texas.” Such was not to be and the Rangers witness the demise of the Confederacy while on patrol duty; though not always woefully. In April of 1865, Heartsill notes three dances in four nights. Heartsill’s unit wasn’t in the thick of battle, he didn’t hold a position of importance, nor was he a confidante to persons of note. He didn’t observe Richmond or any other vital seat of war, yet his book is held in high esteem and deservedly so. Why so?

Broadfoot Publishing Company 910-686-4816 or bpc@ec.rr.com

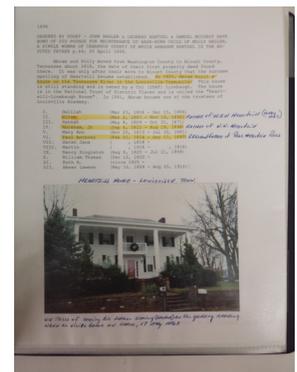
Heartsill wrote well, with perception and humor; he's the fighting man's answer to Phoebe Yates Pember. [Phoebe Yates Pember wrote *A Southern Woman's Story*. This volume is considered by many to be the most readable and delightful of all Confederate narratives.] Most soldier narratives are ponderous and awkward, the style being endured for the content. Not so with W.W. He writes with flair and verve and is a delight to read no matter what the subject. His dry wit is delightful; not only when recording the obviously humorous but throughout the entire narrative. However, when drama was called for, Heartsill had it and his account of the battle of Chickamauga ranks with the best spawned by the war.

Heartsill at times comes tantalizingly close to remarking upon the relationship between the Rangers and the ladies. The two hundred and six young Rangers, between the ages of eighteen and twenty-three, must have had amorous adventures aplenty yet Heartsill, the good listener, doesn't tell. About as close as we get is a heartfelt thanks for "WIMIN that love to dance: and an entry on April 15, when Heartsill spontaneously gives credit for "WIMIN." Capital letters and quotation marks are reserved by Heartsill for special occasions and in this usage, he creates a suspicion that there is more about WIMIN than dancing. Interestingly enough, the exuberant comment about "wimin" was added in printing and is not in the manuscript. Fond memories?

We don't know what occasioned the observation on "WIMIN" however Heartsill's relationship with fish is beyond speculation. In *1491 DAYS*, he chronicles twelve fishing expeditions describing "long strings of fish" or noting "Claudius and I caught 57 fish today." 57 weren't enough. On the following day he wrote, "I go angling... Claudius and I are rewarded with 56 of the "Finny tribe" for our labors." Heartsill's fishing career may have been the greatest among mounted Confederate troops, perhaps even in the entire Army. Not only did he frequently wet a hook, but he sheds his usual modesty in describing the results. If he ever failed to catch fish we are not so informed; thus perhaps fishing also vanquished another Heartsill trait – veracity.

Heartsill was a loyal to-the-end Gray Jacket who, even as the Confederacy was falling city by city, army by army, maintained his hope and optimism. Finally, even he too had to accept the inevitable. The last entry in his book begins "so our bright dream is or'e, our country subjugated, our armies scattered to the "Four Winds of the Heavens," our cause is lost! Lost!! LOST!!!

Fourteen Hundred and 91 Days
– in original binding from Heartsill's family



"Fine Books Since 1969"

Broadfoot
PUBLISHING COMPANY

1907 Buena Vista Circle

Wilmington, NC 28411-7892

910-686-4816 or bpc@ec.rr.com