WATKINS, THOMAS EVAN (Eiddil Ifor, but in later life Ynyr Gwent; 1801 - 1889), eisteddfodwr

Name: Thomas Evan Watkins
Pseudonym: Eiddil Ifor, Ynyr Gwent
Date of birth: 1801
Date of death: 1889
Spouse: Mary Watkins (née Lewis)
Gender: Male
Occupation: eisteddfodwr
Area of activity: Eisteddfod
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born 1 May 1801 at ' Pwll-yr-hyward ' (probably Pwll-yr-hwyaid), Llanfoist (Llan-ffwyst), Monmouthshire; his father, of the same name, worked at Abertillery (Abertyleri), but returned to Llanfoist to work in the limestone quarries belonging to the Blaenavon iron-works, becoming a member of Llanwenarth Baptist church, where he married. The son became innkeeper of the ' White Hart ' at Blaenavon, and afterwards a weigher in the iron-works at Blaina, but returned (c. 1860) to Blaenavon to keep the 'Three Cranes' inn - his wife, Mary (Lewis), had died 1859 at Blaina - they had two daughters. He died 31 January 1889. A zealous eisteddfodic competitor, he was a founder-member of ' Cymreigyddion y Fenni ' (for which see under Carnhuanawc and under Bevan, Thomas, 1802 - 1882); he won many prizes and medals, and contributed to *Seren Gomer* and to *Y Bedyddiwr*. He is best known for his parish history, *Hanes Llanffrwyst*, which took the prize at the first Abergavenny Cymreigyddion eisteddfod, 22 November 1834. It was published under the editorship of Sir Joseph Bradney in 1922, with an introduction from which the present notice has been compiled.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

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