

## 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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