THE HISTORY OF THE JACKSON, OHIO EISTEDDFOD

A Thesis Presented for the Degree of Master of Arts

By

Florence Jenkins Cope, B.S.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

1937

Approved by:

[Signature]
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. EARLY HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION OF THE EISTEDDFOD</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. The Early History</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Organization of an Eisteddfod</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. THE TRADITIONS OF THE EISTEDDFOD</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. The Crowning of the bard</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Symbols of the Eisteddfod</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. EARLY WELSH SETTLEMENTS IN OHIO</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Paddy's Run Settlement, 1796</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. The Welsh Hills Settlement, 1801</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. The Radnor Settlement, 1802</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. The Gomer Settlement, 1853</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. The Venedocia Settlement in Van Wert County, 1848</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. The Welsh Settlements in Jackson and Gallia Counties</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. EARLY EISTEDDFOD ACTIVITY IN JACKSON COUNTY</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Oak Hill Eisteddfod, 1875</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The First Eisteddfod in Jackson, Ohio, 1877</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Other early eisteddfods in Jackson, Ohio</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The Eisteddfod of 1897</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. THE SOUTHERN OHIO EISTEDDFOD ASSOCIATION TO 1930</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. The First Annual of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association,</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20, 1922</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Second Annual, 1923</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Festivals of 1925-1926</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The Eisteddfod of 1927</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The Eisteddfod of 1928</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Auditorium, 1928</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The Eighth Annual Eisteddfod, 1929</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD AT JACKSON, OHIO, 1930</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. THE JACKSON, OHIO EISTEDDFDS SINCE THE GRAND NATIONAL</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. The Eisteddfod of 1931</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The 1932 Eisteddfod</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Eisteddfod of 1934, 1935 and 1936</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The Jackson, Ohio School Eisteddfod</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBLIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

No one can truthfully say he knows the Welsh unless he knows their passion for song. For the Welsh, as a people, sing with enthusiasm. Just why the Welsh people are so music-conscious is hidden perhaps within their environment. Situated as Wales is in a rugged mountain land between the verdant country side of Old England and the stormy shores of the Irish Sea--Welsh tradition has it that here have dwelled a sturdy folk oppressed and all but vanquished by British hordes. Yet their will to be free, their religious fervor and emotional zeal finds expression in song far beyond measure perhaps in other lands. Some one has said, "The suffering of a people through oppression seeks expression in their literature and music." This seems especially true of the Welsh songs, the majority of which are written in the minor key.

Until the Industrial Revolution the Welsh were a pastoral people--feeding their sheep on wild mountain slopes of a land not quite the size of New Jersey. While the Welsh language is still taught at Oxford and the schools in Wales it is losing its popular appeal with the influx of immigrants to its southern part which is commercial. There have been movements for its revival however on the part of patriotic cymry(Welsh). The Welsh language is decidedly more intact in the northern more isolated, part of Wales. Modern Wales, if it can be so called, is a land with rich deposits of coal and slate which are essential to its extensive manufacturing. The proximity of its small towns render community contests both a pleasure and a necessity. An institution which has met this need is the
eisteddfod which has developed into international significance.

And now, it is quite expedient that we leave Wales if we are to trace this popular institution to Jackson, Ohio. To escape persecution for their religious and civic views during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries many Welshmen have come to America. As one might expect they brought along their traditional customs, habits and language. Especially between 1790 and 1820 many Welsh, often entire congregations, crossed the seas to find freedom. However, since the eisteddfod had not been revived in Wales at this time it could not be expected in America until later arrivals brought it to America. After 1835 great numbers of Welsh joined the settlements which had been started about 1818 in Southern Ohio.

The first eisteddfod on record held in the United States was in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, in 1850. It would be difficult, indeed, to say when the first eisteddfod was held in Ohio but there were literary meetings of an eisteddfodic nature as early as 1863 in Jackson County. The first eisteddfod bearing that name was held in Oak Hill, Jackson County, in the year 1875. The inspiration for this occasion was the annual eisteddfod held in Cincinnati, Ohio. Two years later Jackson held an eisteddfod, and several such festivals were held thereafter. The eisteddfod movement in Jackson was not very stable however until the formation of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association in 1922. The prestige of this organization is reflected in the fact that the national eisteddfod was held in
this little Ohio town in 1930, in the only auditorium built expressly for the eisteddfod throughout the entire world.

The eisteddfod, as an institution, is known wherever there are Welsh to carry it on. Jackson has attracted eisteddfod enthusiasts throughout the United States to witness its annual and it is the purpose of this thesis to give the history of this institution in a town of seven thousand situated in the foothills of the Ohio Valley.
THE HISTORY OF THE JACKSON, OHIO EISTEDDFOD

I. EARLY HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION OF THE EISTEDDFOD

1. The Early History

The history of the eisteddfod goes back to the days of the dim past. The first eisteddfod of which there is a detailed record was held on the banks of the Conway in the sixth century. Kaelgwyn Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, sponsored this program. After this event the eisteddfod declined though there is record that the eisteddfod was given royal sanction under the Tudor Monarchs. During the early part of the 19th century however some noble Welshmen realized that the eisteddfod was a neglected force that might be used as a benefit to Welsh nationalism. With this aim in view Sir Hugh Owen and his friends attempted to revive and regulate it, making an opportunity for the discussion of questions pertaining to the problems in Wales. This reform work was taken up by the National Eisteddfod Association with headquarters in London.\(^1\)

The first national eisteddfod of Wales was held at Aberdare, South Wales in 1861. Since then a national eisteddfod has been held once a year alternately in North and South Wales or in some of the principal cities of England. The 1939 eisteddfod was held in Liverpool, England and was of international importance as choirs competed from England, Wales, Ireland and the United States.\(^2\) The National Eisteddfod is

\(^1\)Fourth Annual Eisteddfod Program, Jackson, Ohio, 1925.
\(^2\)Ninth Annual Eisteddfod Program, Jackson, Ohio, 1930.
often referred to as the Gorsedd. Today there is an American Gorsedd having supervision of the activities of the National Eisteddfod Association of America and Canada which was officially recognized by the Welsh Gorsedd at the Pittsburgh International Eisteddfod in 1913.  

The eisteddfodic activities in the United States cannot be traced accurately inasmuch as a local eisteddfod can be held without authorization from the Gorsedd. We do know however that an eisteddfod, referred to as the first in the United States, was held in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, in 1850. A national eisteddfod was held during the World’s Fair in Chicago, 1893, under the auspices of the Welsh Gorsedd. The first national eisteddfod of America was held at Utica, New York, in 1895. Utica also held the second, third, fourth and fifth nationals. The 1928 national was held in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania and the 1929 event was held in Scranton, Pa. Jackson, Ohio held the national eisteddfod in 1930 which reflects the importance which has been attached to the association which has been so active in Southern Ohio.

When the first Ohio eisteddfodic activity really began is difficult to say but literary meetings of an eisteddfodic nature were recorded in Jackson County in 1863. It would not be surprising that after 1835 programs of this nature were held in Ohio. The immigrants from Cardiganshire who came in 1835 doubtless had been influenced by the eisteddfod which had been revived in Wales. Many of the early settlers were from Aberyss-
twyth, the heart of eisteddfodic activity. Suffice it to say that the Welsh with their traditions were active in the cultural life of the State from their earliest days and the eisteddfod found fertile soil for its development.

2. Organization of an Eisteddfod

In order that the Welsh festival can be held certain organization is essential. Preliminary programs are issued long in advance of the sessions in order that the competitors may prepare for the festival. A copy of the program of the national eisteddfod held in Jackson, Ohio in 1930 may serve as an example.
PROGRAM

Thursday Evening Session 7:30 o'clock

1. Singing by the audience -- "Diadem".
2. Address by the President.
3. Presentation of Hon. T. A. Jenkins, Conductor of the Evening.
4. Address by the Conductor.
5. Introduction of the Adjudicators, Soloists and Accompanists, by the Conductor.

6. Solo for Boys (for those between 12 and 15 years of age)
   "In Spain" by Arthur Edward Johnstone--Hollis Dann's Music Book, Sixth Year, Page 84.
   First prize...$10.00
   Second prize...$ 5.00

7. Recitation (for Boys and Girls between 12 and 16 years of age)
   "The House by the Side of the Road" by Sam Walter Foss
   Prize...$15.00

8. Adjudication on Number 6.
10. Piano Solo (for Boys and Girls between 15 and 18 years of age)
    "Fantasia in D Minor" by W. A. Mozart
    Published by Presser and Company.
    First prize...$10.00
    Second prize...$ 5.00

11. Adjudication, Original Poem (for those under 16 years of age)
    "The Robin"
    Prize...$10.00

12. Adjudication on Number 10.
13. Solo for Girls (for those between 12 and 15 years of age)
    "The Maiden's Wish" Hollis Dann's Music Book, Sixth
    Year, Page 78.
    First prize...$10.00
    Second prize...$ 5.00

    Prize...$ 5.00

15. Adjudication on Number 12.
16. Solo for Girls (for those between 15 and 18 years of age)
    "Love's a Merchant" Key of E flat or F, by Molly Crew.
    (Published by Chappell-Harms, New York)
    Prize...$15.00

17. Adjudication on Sketch (for those under 18 years)
    "The State Parks of Ohio"
    Prize...$10.00

18. Adjudication on Number 14.
19. High School Girls' Chorus (over 40 voices)
    "A Boy Homing" (Three part) by Luigi Donza, Arr. by
    Clarence Lucas, (Published by Chappell-Harms)
    Prize...$100.00

20. Adjudication on Short Story (for those under 18 years)
    Not to exceed 2,000 words
    Prize...$ 25.00

21. Adjudication on Number 18.
PROGRAM
Friday Afternoon Session--1:30 o'clock

1. Singing by the Audience--"America"
2. Presentation of Hon. D. E. Korgen, Conductor of the Afternoon by the President
3. Address by the Conductor
4. Introduction of the Adjudicators, Soloists and Accompanists by the Conductor
5. Solo for Girls (for those under 12 years of age)
   Second prize $3.00
6. Recitation for Boys (for those under 12 years of age)
   "The Little Rock Men" by Riley. First prize $10.00
7. Adjudication on Number 5.
8. Piano Solo (for Boys and Girls under 12 years of age)
   "Album Leaf", by Edward Grieg, Op. 12, No. 7
   (G. Schirmer). First prize $7.00
   Second prize $3.00
10. Adjudication on Number 8.
11. Recitation (for Girls under 12 years of age)
    "The Duel" by Eugene Fields. First prize $10.00
12. Solo for Boys (for those under 12 years of age)
    "The Shadow and I" by Brotherson.
    Hollis Dann's Music Book, Fourth Year. First prize $7.00
    Second prize $3.00
13. Adjudication on Number 11.
15. Piano Solo (for Boys and Girls between 12 and 15 years of age)
    "Morning Hush" by Edward Grieg, Op. 46, No. 1
    (G. Schirmer). First prize $7.00
    Second prize $3.00
17. Adjudication on Number 15.
18. Grade School Chorus (over 50 voices, Boys and Girls)
    Not less than 15 from each 6th, 7th and 8th Grades
    "Tiptoe" (Two Part) by Holly Carew, Arr. by Clarence Lucas. (Published by Chappell-Hoers) First prize $100.00
19. Adjudication on Number 18.
PROGRAM
Friday Evening Session, 7:30 o'clock

1. Singing by the Audience—"Aberystwyth"
2. Presentation of Dr. David Hugh Jones, Conductor of the Evening by the President............................
3. Address by the Conductor................................
4. Greetings by the Bards, Welsh or English................

5. Piano Solo (for those over 15 years of age)............"Nocturne", F. Sharp, Major by Chopin Op. 15, No. 2..... (Published by C. Schirmer)...............................Prize $25.00.

6. Oration (Time limit 5 minutes) "The Spirit of the Pioneer" ...............................................................Prize 20.00.

7. Adjudication No. 5.
8. Adjudication No. 6.

9. Solo, Welsh or English (for men over 65 years of age). Contestant to select his own solo and to furnish adjudicator with copy of same..................................Prize 20.00.

10. Improvisation Speeches (Time Limit 3 minutes). (Subject to be assigned by the Adjudicators at the time of competition).........................................................Prize 5.00.

11. Adjudication on Number 9.................................
12. Solo by L. Powell Evans, Atlantic City, N. J..........
13. Adjudication on Number 10.................................

14. School Band (Not less than 40 pieces)..................
"Light Cavalry Overture", by P. Von Suppe, Arr. by... Henry Fillmore. (Published by Fillmore Brothers.....
............................................................................Prize 100.00

15. Adjudication, Translation, English to Welsh........
"The Concord Fynn", by Ralph Waldo Emerson........ Prize 10.00

16. Adjudication on Number 14.................................

17. Recitation (for those over 16 years of age)..........
"Incident of the French Camp".... Robert Browning " $20.00

18. Congregational (Church) Choir (over 25 voices).....
"Lift Up Your Heads" by J. B. Wilson (Published by... Lorenz Publishing Co...........................................Prize $100.00

19. Adjudication No. 17

20. Adjudication No. 18
PROGRAM  
Saturday Morning Session, 10:00 O'clock  
Hon. T. A. Jenkins, Conductor.

1. Singing by the Audience, "Y Delyn Aur"
3. Presentation of Honorary President of Morning Session, the Conductor.
4. Address by the Honorary President.

5. Adjudication on Original Poem, "Peace".............Prize $20.00

6. Alto Solo "Care Selve" Key of F by Handel, Arr. by A. L.  
(Published by Boosey and Co.).........................Prize $25.00

7. Welsh Recitation, "Y Ff drodur", by Cynonfarchd.....Prize $20.00

8. Adjudication on Number 6.

9. Solo by Miss Ann Ellen Hughes, Vanwert, Ohio.
10. Adjudication on Number 7.

(Published by Carl Fischer)............................Prize $25.00

12. Adjudication on the Welsh Poem, "Yr Henesol Fadd"(The  
Ancient Bard)............................................Prize 25.00

13. Adjudication on Number 11.

14. Soprano Solo, "Chanson Provencale" by B. Dell' Acqua...  
(Published by G. Schirmer)..............................Prize $25.00

15. Adjudication on Translation, Welsh to English.....  
"Daw Yn Noddfa" by Rev. Christmas Evans............Prize 10.00

16. Solo by Prof. L. Powell Evans, Atlantic City, N. J.

17. Adjudication on Number 14.

18. Ladies Chorus (Not less than 50 or over 110 voices).....  
(a) "Anitra's Dance" by Edvard Grieg, Op. 46, No. 3, Arr.  
by Chefin. (Published by Oliver Ditson)..............
(b) "A Snow Legend", by Joseph W. Clokey, Op. 26.........  
(Published by C. C. Birchard Co.)......................Prize $600.

19. Adjudication on Number 18.
PROGRAM
Saturday Afternoon Session--1:30 o'clock
Hon. D. E. Morgan, Conductor.

1. Singing by the Audience--"Cwm Rhondda".
2. Presentation of Honorary President by the Conductor.
3. Address by the Honorary President.
4. Greeting by the Bards, Welsh or English.
5. Tenor Solo, "The Song of Life" King of A, by Charles Wakefield Cadman. (Published by G. Schirmer)...Prize $25.00
6. Solo by Miss Ann Ellen Hughes, Vanwert, Ohio...........
7. Adjudication on Number 5......................
8. Duet, Soprano and Alto, "O Lovely Peace", from Judas Maccabaeus by Handel. (Published by Oliver Ditson Co.)
   ..................................................Prize $40.00
9. Adjudication on Essay (any age) "The Effect of Mechanical Reproduction on the Art of Music"........Prize $25.00
10. Adjudication on Number 8......................
11. Instrumental Trio (Piano, Violin and Cello)....... "Deux Arabesques" E Major par Roger Branga........
    (Published by Elkan-Vogel Co. Inc.).............Prize $60.00
12. Adjudication on Sketch (for those over 18 years of age) "The Influence of the National Road upon the Development of the Northwest Territory"........Prize $20.00
13. Adjudication on Number 11.
14. Duet, Soprano and Baritone "O, Divine Redeemer," by Ch. Gounod (Published by John Church Co.)......Prize $40.00
15. Solo by Prof. L. Powell Evans, Atlantic City, N.J.
16. Adjudication on Book Review, "Grandmother Brown's One Hundred Years" by Harriet Connor Brown........Prize $20.00
17. Adjudication on No. 14......................
18. Mixed Chorus (not less than 85 or over 140 voices)...
   a. "How Sweet the Moonlight Sleeps" (unaccompanied) by D. Emlyn Evans. Published by Theo. Presser)........
   b. "The Challenge of Thor" (King Olaf) by Elgar......
      (Published by Novello)..........................Prize $1500.00
19. Adjudication on No. 18
PROGRAM
Saturday Evening Session
7:30 o'clock
Dr. David Hugh Jones, Conductor

1. Singing by the audience, "Bryn Calfaria".

2. Presentation of Honorary President of the Conductor.

3. Address by the Honorary President.

4. Baritone or Bass Solo, "Where-e'er you Walk" with
   Recitative "By My Command", G. Flat, from Semmele
   by Handel, Arr. by Horace Hunt, No. 6150...........
   (Published by J. Fischer & Bro.) Prize..............$25.00

5. Adjudication on Short Story (for those over 18 years
   of age, not to exceed 3,000 words)..............Prize$50.00

6. Adjudication on No. 4

7. Duet, Tenor and Bass, "Flow Gently Deva" by
   J. Parry. (Published by White Smith & Co.).Prize $40.00

8. Adjudication on Drawing (pen or pencil) of the
   late Eben Jones, size not less than 10 x 12 inches$25.00


    by John Cheshire. (Published by J. B. Cramer
    Co., London)..............Prize $50.00

11. Solo by Miss Ann Ellen Hughes, Vanwort, Ohio.

12. Adjudication on No. 10.

    by Carl Deis (Published by G. Schirmer)....Prize $60.00

14. Solo by Prof. L. Powell Evans, Atlantic City, N. J.

15. Adjudication on Number 13.

16. Male Chorus (not less than 70 or over 120 voices)
    (a) "0 Bone Jesu" (0 Holy Father). (Unaccompanied)
    by G. P. da Palestrina.(Published by E. G. Schirmer
    Music Co.)
    (b) "Dronthein" (King Olaf's Christmas) by Protheroe.
    (Published by D. O. Evans Co., Cleveland, Ohio).
    .................................Prize$1500.00

17. Adjudication on Number 16.
The contestants for the National were required to observe the following rules and conditions:

1. Prize will be withheld where there is not sufficient merit and in no case will a prize be divided except where merit is equal.

2. All successful compositions and drawings shall be the property of the Eisteddfod Committee.

3. No public protest will be allowed. A written protest may be lodged with the Secretary, which must be received before the prize money is awarded. Such protest will be referred to the Executive Committee for final adjudication.

4. The price of a season ticket will be withheld from the prize of successful competitors who are not present on the day of the Eisteddfod.

5. Unsuccessful compositions and drawings will be returned to competitors within two months after the Eisteddfod on receipt by the Secretary of a written application accompanied by cost of postage.

6. The committee reserves the right to hold preliminary tests and decide how many shall appear in the finals on recitations, oration, extemporaneous speaking and all music except Choral and Band number.

7. Competitors failing to appear in the preliminary test will not be permitted in the finals.

8. Adjudicators, officers, and members of the Executive Committee are barred from competing upon any subject at the Eisteddfod except choral.

9. All compositions, translations, penmanship and drawing must bear an assumed name, or a motto only, accompanied by the author's name, in a sealed envelope, and must be in the hands of the Secretary on or before September 25, 1930. This rule must be strictly adhered to.

10. Adjudicators will consider only such compositions as are received from the Secretary.

11. The names of all competitors in every contest, (all music, extemporaneous speaking, oration, and recitations must be in the hands of the Secretary on or before October 10, 1930.
12. Competitors may provide their own accompanist, or are privileged to accept the services of one of the official accompanist.

13. The recitations are to be rendered as printed in this program.

14. All musical numbers must be sung to English words, except No. 9, Friday evening program.

15. In all competitions, only the editions specified will be permitted. Competitions are open to all.

On many occasions there are so many entries that a preliminary contest is necessary. The preliminary may have the services of the adjudicator or his assistant. The preliminaries make it possible that the certain number allowed may come to the stage. Of course much disappointment is felt by those who are eliminated from this honor. In the case of small children however it is not uncommon to permit all contestants to appear on the official program. The youngsters need the encouragement and they are generally permitted to compete without preliminary contests. Preliminaries are not held for the choruses nor the bands, and the eisteddfod enthusiast is not bored to sit through hours of singing the same test piece.

The eisteddfod is broken up into sessions. At the Jackson local on the Thursday night program appear all entries for children of high school age. The final number is usually the high school band competition. Friday morning is given over to the small children. The Friday afternoon program is closed with the ladies' chorus competition. Sometimes the male chorus is programmed for the afternoon session but it is generally reserved for the Friday night session which is conceded to be the best and the best attended. The price of admission for
the sessions is regulated according to its popular appeal. A season ticket reserved for the four sessions may be procured. In the Jackson Eisteddfod Auditorium the seats are numbered and make reservation possible.

The successful contestant may be rewarded in different ways. Money, ribbons, medals, scholarships and batons have been given to the prize winner. Certificates often accompany the money prize offered. The writer remembers her earliest recollection of the eisteddfod where a string of beautiful prize bags was in evidence. The successful contestant was called to the stage when an official or appointed person put one of the bags around the neck of the successful competitor containing the money or medal. These prize bags were in different colors. A prize bag competition made these bags possible. The winner of the prize bag entry got a prize but the unsuccessful ones contributed their bags to the committee. Many bags were made to supplement these entries. Generally the bag winning the prize was given to the successful director of the Male or Mixed chorus at the eisteddfod.

The officers of the eisteddfod are active for months prior to the festival. For this reason the officials for the next event are chosen soon after the eisteddfod is held. In an organization like the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association this is an easy procedure to follow. The task of carrying on these events calls for the cooperation of all officers, the President, Vice-presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee composed of past presidents of the association act in an advisory capacity. The secretary receives the names of the prospective
contestants. On the secretary rests much of the responsibility for the smooth running of the eisteddfod. D. E. Howell officiated in this capacity from the inception of the Association until his death and much of the success of the Jackson Eisteddfod can be attributed to his work.

Committees function on various matters relative to the eisteddfod. The Music Committee appoints the adjudicators or judges of the musical numbers and chooses the music to be used in the competition. The Literary Committee functions for all literary contests including the essays, short stories, readings, debates and orations. A committee on securing competition advertises and encourages competitors from other cities to enter competition. Not the least important is the committee on subscriptions whose task it is to raise enough money to pay for the prizes. The prizes for the National were donated. Some of the donations were very large. For instance Mrs. Edwin Griffith of Cleveland, Ohio gave the $1500.00 prize awarded to the Male Chorus. Other prizes as large as $500.00 were donated. When an eisteddfod is held annually such as the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod the task is found irksome at times. A committee on decorations and transportation also functions. Ushers are appointed to care for the audience. The ushers at the Jackson eisteddfod are usually boy scouts.

The adjudicators are selected with care because on their judgment rests the success of the contest. There are usually two adjudicators for the music and one adjudicator each for the literary, penmanship and drawing numbers. However at a national eisteddfod a greater number officiate.
The conductors for the eisteddfod are generally outstanding leaders or eisteddfod enthusiasts. Hon. James J. Davis and several governors of Ohio have served in this capacity at Jackson. Sometimes the conductor delivers an address.

Many of the programs call for responses by the bards. The bard is a poet who has been publicly recognized at an impressive ceremony which will be described in the chapter dealing with the traditions and customs of the eisteddfod.

At the close of the eisteddfod it is common to have a Gymanfa Ganu in the community holding the eisteddfod. The Gymanfa Ganu is a meeting in which the congregation sing hymns under the guidance of a music director. The four parts are taken and in some cases these parts are sung without separating the sopranos from the altos, etc. However at large Gymanfas the different parts sit together. Programs are printed in advance of the meeting and many Welshmen practice their favorite songs to make the song fest a success. When it is said that the Gymanfa takes place at the close of the eisteddfod it should be explained that it is held either the next day or as in the case of the Oak Hill Gymanfa on the Sunday after the Jackson, Ohio, eisteddfod. The Gymanfa seems to fit in properly with the eisteddfod. It is not competitive and all the singers who have gathered for the eisteddfod have an opportunity to sing together whereas in the eisteddfod the different choruses sing separately. Ohio has many cities where this institution is held regularly;
Niles, Youngstown, Oak Hill, Jackson, Cleveland, Steubenville, Martins Ferry and other cities. The annual event at Niles, Ohio is especially attractive and has established an enviable reputation. The event in Youngstown is generally held the Sunday after the Warren, Ohio eisteddfod which is held near Mothers' Day. The Oak Hill event comes in the fall as does the Niles Gymanfa. A committee is appointed whose task it is to have programs prepared and effective advertising for the meetings. Not all the gymanfas have a sermon delivered by a minister but this procedure is carried out in the Oak Hill Gymanfa.

The eisteddfod appeals to the competitive spirit in people and keen interest is shown on the part of all when their friends contest for the prize. The institution benefits both the competitors and the audience but it is generally conceded that the contestants derive the most benefit. The competitors are offered the incentive to take an interest in music, literature and art. It offers them an opportunity to have their talents observed by competent adjudicators and to receive commendation or constructive criticism which will encourage them to study with more enthusiasm. "Not only the victor but the vanquished may profit and defeat be made a stepping stone to future success." The contestants obtain poise from such participation. It is amazing to see youngsters appear before four or five thousand people and perform with apparent ease. The prize awarded may serve as the incentive.

4John Stanley Morgan, Seventh Annual Eisteddfod Program, Jackson, Ohio, 1928.
for competition. Scholarships to the Royal Academy of London have been offered at the National Eisteddfod in Wales. The participation should be regarded as the goal rather than the prize inasmuch as the preparation is rewarded by the personal development of the contestant.

The cultural benefit obtained by the audience should not be overlooked. The adjudicators serve as an education to many who cannot afford to take lessons in music, reading and drawing, etc. The audience also finds itself in a religious atmosphere when such anthems as "Worthy is the Lamb" are sung. Congregational singing of hymns and prayer are a part of the program and the eisteddfod is an uplifting institution. It has been described as, "The feast of reason and the flow of soil." 5

For those who are commercially minded it must not be overlooked that the community benefits in a financial way from the guests assembled to witness the eisteddfod. Before the days of the automobile this was more apparent. Now buses will bring the competitors in time for the session in which they compete and convey them to their homes at its close regardless of the hour. It is not unusual for the eisteddfod to extend far into the morning hours. We have witnessed the mixed choruses entering on the stage at the Warren, Ohio Eisteddfod after one o'clock in the morning. Because of the Gymanfa Genu visitors stay in the community for a few days benefiting hotels and restaurants. Of course many of the visitors stay in the homes of their friends. Business men have not been slow to see the

5 Ibid.
benefit of these visitors and it may account for the splendid cooperation in donating much of the prize money for the eisteddfod. Perhaps the greatest benefit Jackson has derived from the eisteddfod is the civic pride which has been felt in perpetuating this cultural institution. All classes of people are interested in maintaining this institution. Bankers, clerks and coal miners appear in the same chorus on various occasions. The Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association belongs to the residents of Southern Ohio. For the sake of convenience we shall speak of it as the Jackson Eisteddfod but it should be kept in mind that residents of Oak Hill, Wellston and other Southern Ohio towns have as much interest in the eisteddfod as the people of Jackson. Because of this community spirit they have been able to maintain this institution during the trying times of the economic depression.
II. THE TRADITIONS OF THE EISTEDDFOD

1. The Crowning of the Bard.

...The Poets, who on earth have made us heirs of truth and pure delight of heavenly lays.--Wordsworth

Though the Gorsedd represents an ancient institution, it is interesting to notice how much of its ancient ceremonials are retained in the modern eisteddfodau. The crowning of the bard is maintained. An article written by Rev. D. E. Richards for the Royal Blue Book, covering the Pittsburgh International Eisteddfod of 1913, describes this ceremony:

There are three degrees given in the bardic ceremony--the Ovate, Bard and Druid. The bard must have shown proficiency in writing poetry, as well as in its rules of metre, rhythm, rhyme, and alliteration. The druids must be ministers of the Christian gospel. Strictly speaking no man is entitled to the degree of Druid unless he already holds the degree of Ovate or Bard. The Ovate is the writer of prose, or of music, as distinguished from the writer of poetry. The Druid, therefore, must have distinguished himself either as (a) a prose writer, (b) a musician, or (c) a poet and have been so recognized by the Gorsedd. In addition he must be a man in holy orders in some branch of the Christian Church.

The ceremony for the bards is held in some conspicuous spot covered by green turf. A circle of stones is made, consisting of twelve, which represent the compass points, outside of which three other stones are erected, over which, from the center of the circle, the rising sun can be seen on the solstices and the equinoxes. Thus the circle represents
the astronomical knowledge of the Britons. The meetings must be held in the open air, symbolizing the basic idea that everything done by the Gorsedd will bear being brought to the fullest light of day.

The bards, accompanied by the chief persons of the town or district in which they meet, form a procession to the circle. They are divided into three orders, Bards, Druid-Bards and Ovate-Bards. The first order are poets, the second religious teachers, the third, persons interested in literature, science and art. According to their order they are robed in different colors. The Druid's color is pure white, the Bard's color is blue and that of the Ovate is green.

The Ovate is a beginner who can later be a Bard. The Druid represents the highest grade. He is supposed to have passed through the lower grades in his search for truth and purity and having attained these the symbolic color, white, is accorded him, as the distinguishing color of his robe.

In the modern Gorsedd, while the distinction of the three classes, or grades, with their characteristic colorings is still retained, the gradation of study no longer applies. Thus the Ovate is the writer of prose, or of music, as distinguished from the writer of poetry. Even the "Fencerdd", or chief musician and the ablest prose authors, however distinguished, have to be content with the grade and symbolic color of the Ovate. Women are equally eligible with men for all degrees. Of the seventy-seven persons honored with bardic degrees at the Pittsburgh International
Eisteddfod of 1913, seven of the group were women.

The Archdruid stands upon the large stone in the center of the circle, surrounded by the chief officers of the Gorsedd. At each of the twelve stones of the circle stand one or more of the bards, each in the color of his order. The Archdruid wears, together with his white robes, a crown of oak leaves and acorns, and a great necklet or torque of gold. There are also in the circle the harper, who should play the old Welsh "telyn deirres", or the triple-stringed harp; the penillion singer; the keeper of the "corn gwlân" or trumpeter; the recorder; the herald bard; the Gorsedd bard; and other officials and especially chaired and crowned bards, chief musicians, etc., of various past eisteddfods. The stones of the circle are generally decorated with various plants, chiefly oak, ash and birch foliage, and corn, trefoil, vervain and mistletoe, these plants being traditionally associated with the Gorsedd. To the druids the oak represented Deity, and the mistletoe, when found growing on the oak, signified man, a creature entirely dependent upon God for support, and yet with an individual existence of his own. The Archdruid, on arrival at the circle, is presented with a bouquet of these plants in a horn, and of mead, meal, fruits, etc. In the opening of the Gorsedd the Archdruid or some other chief bard, recites the Gorsedd prayer. The following is the one in most general use:
Dyro, Dduw, dy nawdd;
Ac yn nawdd, nerth;
Ac yn neith, ddeali;
Ac yn neali, gwybod;
Ac yn ngwybod gwybod y cyflawn;
Ac yng ngwybod y cyflawn, ei garu;
Ac o garu, caru pob hanfod;
Ac yn mhob hanfod caru Dduw,
Dduw a phob Daioni.

A free literal translation would read thus:

"Grant, O God! Thy protection;
And in protection, Strength;
And in Strength, understanding;
And in understanding, knowledge;
And in knowledge, a perception of rectitude;
And in perception of rectitude, the love of it;
And in that love, the love of every existence;
And in the love of every existence, the love of God and all Goodness."

The Archdruid then calls the roll of the bards, reciting names from earliest times to the present. Then the ceremony of the sword is performed. In ancient times, the bardic circle was not to be broken into by armed men, and a ceremony symbolizing a truce is carried out. The archdruid holds a sword, half sheathed, in his hands, the attendant bards touch the same on the hilt and the scabbard. The archdruid cries aloud three times, "A oes Heddwch?" (Is it Peace?) and is three times answered, "Hddwchi!" (It is Peace!). The sword is then sheathed.

Various addresses are given, poems are recited and music played. Then those who have successfully passed their respective examinations are brought, one by one, to the Archdruid, who decorates them by tying a ribbon around the arm of a color distinguishing the various grades, and at the same time announcing the person by his pen name.
It was the writer's privilege to see Lloyd George crowned chief bard at the National Eisteddfod in Wales held in Neath, South Wales, in 1934. The ceremony took on added color in that the Lord Mayor of Neath appeared in the ceremony and he had on a long toupee and garb fitting for one of honor. He reminded one of the members of the old House of Lords with their curled locks hanging down on their shoulders. Lloyd George gave a fitting address on World Peace in which he pointed out that among those who died during the last war perhaps there was one who would have been a great bard, minstrel or harpist, and that in order to save the eisteddfod and all things cultural we must have peace. His address was delivered in the Welsh language. The entire bardic ceremony was carried on in the language of Gwlad(Wales).

2. The Symbols of the Eisteddfod

True to the ancient character of the eisteddfod, symbols form a part of the institution. "Most important are the Druidical characters \( /|\backslash \), three rays of light emanating from the Divine source, and representing the name of Deity. 'The announcement of the Divine name is the first event traditionally preserved.' In recognition of God being all in all and over all, and as a source of life and light, the symbol always appears prominently and is placed at the head of every official paper, document, etc. pertaining to the Gorsedd or eisteddfod. In the symbol of Deity, orders and colors of the eisteddfod, and in their system of
mnemonics (triad) we find the figure three significant." The idea of three has been prevalent among many religious institutions to express the threefold nature of the Divine. "The number three has been named the number of God, from its peculiar use in Scripture in connection with the Divine name. It also symbolizes completeness." 6

"The scroll represents literature, and the harp, music; while the torch signifies knowledge. The scroll is of the manuscript period, recording both traditional and other events prior to the invention of printing. The harp originated in Egypt. Both the Cymric and the Gaelic give it a prominent place, and the harpists' veneration and distinction. The harp is more distinctly a Welsh than an Irish instrument, and up to this day remains such.

"The torch represents knowledge as light dispelling the darkness of ignorance and superstition. It also represents liberty, and like the lamp, signifies good works.

"The motto of the Gorsedd is 'Y Gwir yn Erbyn y Byd' and is held next in importance to the sacred symbol of Deity. It is translated--The Truth against the World. It calls for the love and practice of Truth, Justice and Righteousness. This motto is placed in the certificate as a canopy over the scene of the Gorsedd, lit up by the rays of the sacred characters.

"The red dragon, adapted by the American Gorsedd is the emblem of Welsh royalty. The eagle refers to the American

6 The Royal Blue Book Prize Productions.
eagle and when the dragon and eagle appear on banners
it indicates the interrelationship of the two countries."

"In symbolism, color takes precedence over design,
and each color is given a separate attribute common to
all nations. The colors of the Gorsedd are white and blue.
The orders with their colors are:

(a) Druids -- White. (Light, purity or moral teaching).
(b) Bards -- Blue. (Sky, celestial, origin of poetry).
(c) Ovate -- Green. (Earth, science and art).

"The Gorsedd prayer expresses the ideal of the
eisteddfod motto--The Search for Truth". 8
III. EARLY WELSH SETTLEMENTS IN OHIO

To appreciate the eisteddfodic movement in Ohio one should have a knowledge of those Welsh pioneers who brought their traditions to the adopted country. The Welshman wanted to settle in colonies with his brother Welshman. He spoke, sang and worshipped in the language of Gwlad(Wales). It is said that clannishness is a marked characteristic of the Welsh people. The Welsh have another characteristic which greatly influenced their coming to America. They love liberty, especially religious liberty, the right to think and freedom of conscience. At the close of the eighteenth century a wave of religious dissent and reform spread throughout Europe. At that time the freethinkers of Wales were persecuted and many fled Great Britain for America between 1790 and 1820. William Penn had made the way possible for freedom of worship. It was not uncommon for a minister and his whole congregation to emigrate in a band. The church of Rev. Thomas Griffiths in Pembrokeshire, Wales, emigrated with him in 1801 and formed the “Welsh Tract Church” in the State of Delaware. This congregation had been persecuted because they had dissented from the established religion in England.9

The Beulah Settlement of Morgan John Rhys was the parent to the Welsh Settlements in Ohio. As early as 1796 Rhys had founded a settlement for Welsh people. The village was called Beulah and located in what is now Cambria County, then a part of Somerset County, in the western part of Pennsylvania about eight miles east of Pittsburgh. “This settlement, together with Ebensburg

which grew beside it, was a source of by far the greater part of the Welsh people who came to Ohio prior to 1825 and particularly of Paddy’s Run and the Welsh Hills.¹⁰

Rhys was compelled to escape from Wales because of his interest in civil and religious rights for dissenters. He was born December 8, 1760 in Glamorganshire, South Wales and died in Somerset, Pennsylvania, December 7, 1804. He attended Bristol College for one year and in 1787 was ordained a Baptist minister of the Penygarm Baptist Church, Pontypool, Wales. About 1793 he published several pamphlets and an article entitled, "Guide and Encouragement to Establish Sunday Schools, etc." In 1794 he fell under the ban of the English Government and fled to America. While at Beulah he took charge of the colony, became pastor of the church, Associate Judge, Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills, etc.

In the fall of 1795 and in the winter of 1796 thirty-three families joined this colony. Many stayed in Beulah, but others used it as a stepping stone on their way to the Northwest. This was true of the founders of Paddy’s Run, Welsh Hills and Gomer. Beulah did not long survive. About 1805 economic changes occurred and because this settlement was cut off from the direct route from Philadelphia westward its settlers abandoned the colony. By 1825 none of its original settlers remained. Rhys had died in 1804 not knowing that a quarter of a century meant the end of his colony.¹¹

¹⁰Ibid.
¹¹Ibid.
1. Paddy's Run Settlement, 1796.

Paddy's Run is located about twenty-two miles northwest of Cincinnati, on a stream by that name. It seems strange that a Welsh Settlement should have had the name of Paddy's Run but rumor has it that an Irishman drowned in this creek and because of that fact Paddy's Run was the name given to it. During the eighties the name was changed to Glendower but soon it was dropped and that of Shandon substituted.\textsuperscript{12}

The settlement dates from 1796 when Ezekiel Hughes, the first Welshman in Paddy's Run, Edward Bebb and William Gwilym squatted on the east bank of the Miami River near the mouth of the Blue Rock Creek. They waited until the Government surveyed the west bank of the river to open the country for settlement. After this was done in 1801, the land on the east side of the Miami was placed on the market and Hughes purchased sections 15 and 16 in what is now Whitewater Township, Hamilton County, while Bebb purchased a half section in Morgan Township, Butler County. Settlers came in large numbers after the survey. Between 1802-1818 many of the newcomers were not Welsh. Malstead, DeArmond, Battenberg, Merring, Mahaffey, Shaw, Youman and Carnack are certainly not Welsh names. However after Ezekiel Hughes went to Wales to marry, seventeen families came directly from Wales in 1818. Hughes very likely advocated this emigration. Between 1820-30 seven Welsh families joined the settlement.\textsuperscript{13}

\textsuperscript{12}Bert S. Bartlow, et al., \textit{Centennial History of Butler County, Ohio}, 352\textsuperscript{13}.

\textsuperscript{13}Jones, "Welsh Settlements in Ohio".
The early settlers became landowners and marketed their produce in Cincinnati. Since they were located along a great line of traffic they found no difficulty in disposing of their goods and many of the group became quite prosperous.

"The Welsh Settlers had come from Llanbrynmair, North Wales which is said to be one of the most moral and religious places in Wales." In America they showed their love of education and devout regard for things religious. The Bible came with them and soon after their cabins were built the Congregational Church was organized, September 3, 1803. It was not until 1825 that a church was built however. Before that time they had used their homes as the meeting place. In 1825 there were ninety members of this church and by 1850 there were 400. The first pastor was English and as several of the first members of the church were not Welsh the service was carried on for the most part in the English language yet services and communion were had alternately in English and Welsh for a considerable period. In 1820 they had two alternately preaching pastors, one English and one Welsh. The last sermon was preached in 1886 in the Welsh language by Rev. Rhys Lloyd of Oakland, California. The last fact is characteristic of many of the old churches where the Welsh language was used. The children of the Welsh immigrant do not have the enthusiasm for the Welsh language their parents possessed and in consequence the English language is used more and more in Welsh churches.

14Ibid.
15Bartlow, loc. cit.
16Jones, "Welsh Settlements in Ohio".
Education was not neglected by the pioneer Welshman in Paddy's Run, and the teachers must have been self-sacrificing. The first school in the township was conducted in a log school house erected in 1808. The teacher, Polly Willey, had twenty pupils and drew the huge salary of seventy-five cents a week, plus boarding at the homes of the students. In 1821 a boarding school was established for advanced scholars by Rev. Thomas Thomas. 17

Jones says that Paddy's Run gave the world ten ministers, five foreign missionary workers, five teachers in the American missionary cause, two eminent journalists, one hundred and five teachers, a score of physicians and several attorneys-at-law. 18

B. The Welsh Hills Settlement, 1801.

Two members of the Beulah Colony contributed to the settlement of Welsh Hills, Ohio. Theophilus Rees and Thomas Phillips of Carmarthenshire, South Wales, Welshmen of large fortunes sailed April 1, 1795 for America. They paid the passage of many of their Welsh neighbors who agreed to reimburse them after they were financially able. Their destination was Big Valley, Chester County, Pennsylvania where there was a Welsh settlement. Later these immigrants went to Cambria County. Rees and Phillips commissioned Morgan Rees, Simon James and Chaplain Jones in August, 1801 to explore a tract of land is what is now Granville Township, Licking County, Ohio. 19 These men returned with a favorable report and Rees purchased 1,000 acres

17 Ibid.
18 Ibid.
in the Southwest corner of the Northwest quarter of Granville Township and Phillips purchased 800 acres immediately north of the Rees purchase. In the same quarter the following purchases were made: Elizabeth Conroy, 200 acres; Henry Jenkins, 100 acres; David Roberts, 400 acres; Walter Griffith, 100 acres. All but Rees settled immediately on their tracts of land. When Rees came to the settlement in 1806 he travelled in the manner of that time. "One horse was used as a pack horse while the wife rode with a child in each saddlebag and a babe in her arms. The father walked and led the way. The two boys, aged seven and nine, drove the cows. In this way they made their journey of over three hundred miles."20

By 1822 twenty-five additional families had joined this settlement. "This settlement consists of 5,000 acres of land for the most part in the Northeast quarter of Granville Township, Licking, Ohio, while a few hundred acres lie in McKean Township, Newton Township and still more in Newark Township."21

These settlers built a church as soon as they had their homes built. They were under the influence of Morgan John Rhys and his non-denominational church while at Beulah but when they came to Welsh Hills they established a church of the religion of Rhys which was Baptist. The pioneer preserved his language and the Welsh tongue was used generally throughout the community until 1830. "It is seldom heard there today."22 Many of the descendants of these pioneers have attended Dennison University which has given the Welsh Hills youth an opportunity for further-

20Jones "Welsh Settlements in Ohio" ibid.
21ibid.
22ibid.
their education. A Welsh Hills pioneer was Thomas D. Jones who made the Lincoln Memorial which stands in the rotunda of the State House in Columbus, Ohio. Jones' parents were born in Wales and brought him into the Welsh Hills Settlement in 1837, from New York where he was born. 23

C. The Radnor Settlement, 1802.

The Radnor Settlement is located in Radnor Township, Delaware County, Ohio and lies just east of the Scioto River near the Northwest corner of Delaware County about five miles north of the City of Delaware. The pioneer of this settlement was David Pugh who purchased 4,000 acres of land. It was the southwest quarter of Township 6, Range 20, of the United States Survey. Pugh purchased this land from Dr. Samuel Jones of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1802 for $2,650 and named it for his home in South Wales, Radnorshire. "The name however is of English origin, the Welsh name of that county being 'Maesyfed'." 24 Pugh rode on horse back to see his purchase but later returned to Philadelphia and arranged with a Welshman by the name of Henry Perry of Angelsey, South Wales to make a settlement upon the tract. Perry made the journey on foot with his two sons in the fall of 1803, but later returned to Baltimore for his wife and other members of his family. Pugh returned to the tract and divided it into lots of 100 acres each and sold them as farms to other settlers who came. Many Welsh people came to Radnor from 1804 to 1807. 25

23Mary E. Hiebrant, "Thomas D. Jones", Centennial History of the City of Newark and Licking County, Ohio, 312.
24James R. Lytle, "Radnor Township", 20th Century History of Delaware County, Ohio and Representative Citizens, 452.
25bid.
In 1808 Marlborough Township was created out of the Radnor Territory. Thompson and Troy were later segregated from Radnor and established as separate townships leaving the latter, in its dimensions, about ten miles north and south and from three to five miles in width.26

As in all Welsh settlements these pioneers endeavored to maintain their worship and The First Baptist Church was built May 4, 1816. Elder Drake preached in both English and Welsh. The Radnor Welsh Congregational Church had its beginnings in 1818 when meetings were held in the cabins of the settlers, "the language spoken being invariably Welsh".27 The Welsh Presbyterian Church was organized in 1850 by the Welsh settlers who were of the Calvinistic Methodist faith before leaving Wales. The church creed almost identical with the Presbyterian in America was given the latter name. The first pastor was Rev. Hugh Roberts and "the Welsh language has always been used in the preaching in that church".28

D. The Gomer Settlement, 1853.

The families of Thomas Watkins, James Nicholas and David Roberts, fourteen in all traveled in the fall of 1833 in wagons from the Paddy's Run Settlement to what is now known as Gomer in Allen County, a distance of 140 miles. Watkins was born in Delan Llanerfyl, North Wales, March 5, 1804 and immigrated in 1826. Prior to his settlement in Paddy's Run he had been in the Beulah Colony. These Welshmen and their families had great

26 Ibid.
27 Ibid.
28 Ibid.
difficulty in making their distance inasmuch as they had to follow the zig-zag trail of the Indians as no roads were built to their destination.

In 1834 eleven families from Wales joined this group and a prosperous settlement was started. Tawelfan, North Wales, furnished several families to this settlement in 1848.29

The Welsh at Gomer, true to their religious nature, held Welsh services in the year 1835. No church was built as yet and the home of Watkins and Rowland Jones served as the meeting place for the church and Sunday School. In 1839 after a large group of settlers joined the colony from Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Wales, the first log church was built.

The settlement did not relax its zeal for the Welsh language. Prior to 1848 the Sunday School was taught in English but when several families came from Tawelfan, the children studied the word of God in the Welsh language. "The services Sunday morning are in the Welsh language".30 However the youth of the church want a change and the evening service is conducted in the English language today.

Gomer has been noted for its singers. In October, 1850, Josiah Jones (Brynmaur) came into the neighborhood from North Wales. He was a man of many talents, and a Welsh scholar of considerable literary ability. Many of his poems and hymns are found in the Welsh hymnals and are sung in the Welsh churches of America. He was secretary of the Welsh Church in Gomer for

29 Jones, "Welsh Settlements in Ohio".
30 Ibid.
many years and his history of that church and settlement is
said to be complete to the year 1887 when he died. He and
other musicians contributed to the singing ability of the
community, which furnished many of the neighboring towns with
their church singers.

The people of this settlement to this day have perpetu-
ated the eisteddfod in the northern part of Ohio and hold
such an institution annually. Professor Mark Evans of Ohio
Northern University at Ada, Ohio has raised the standard of
choral singing in that environment and the choral society
which he directs has been successful at many eisteddfods
including that of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association,
Jackson, Ohio.

E. The Venedocia Settlement in Van Wert County, 1848.

Paddy's Run Settlement was also responsible for the
Venedocia Welsh Settlement. Governor William Bebb of Ohio
purchased two or three sections of land in what is now
Venedocia, Van Wert County. Through the influence of Bebb,
his cousin, also William Bebb by name, came to Paddy's Run
from Llanbrynmair, Wales. Bebb lived at a place called
Rhiwgriafo and he was known as Bebb (Rhiwgriafo).

"Rhiwgriafo", Thomas Morris and Richard Jones accom-
panied by their families left Paddy's Run in 1848 for Van
Wert County. "Rhiwgriafo" fulfilled his promise to his
relatives in Wales and founded the Calvinistic Church in

31Jones, "Welsh Settlements in Ohio"; Charles C. Miller,
"The History of the Welsh Settlements of Gomer, Sugar Creek
Township", History of Allen County, Ohio and Representative
Citizens, 189.
Venedocia. The biographical history of Van Wert County lists many Welsh immigrants who came into Van Wert from Wales and Welsh settlements in America. Many of the residents lived formerly in Jackson County.

**F. The Welsh Settlements in Jackson and Gallia Counties.**

We are more interested in the settlement of the Welsh people in Jackson and Gallia Counties since it is the home of the Jackson Brastedifod. A change of plan due to an accident accounts for the 1818 settlement of Jackson and Gallia Counties by "Tirbach" Jones and his group. Paddy's Run was the destination of these thirty-five souls who left Kilkinin, Cardiganshire, South Wales, April, 1818 for America. The heads of the six families comprising this group were:

John Jones (Tirbach) and wife Eleanor and two unmarried children—Timothy and Jane; John Evans (Penlanlas) and wife Mary, daughter of "Tirbach", with their three children; Evan Evans (Tymawr) and wife Susanna, daughter of "Tirbach" and one child—Evan. The unmarried brother and sister of Evan Evans—David and Elizabeth. Lewis Davis (Rhwillas) and wife Mariah and two sons; William Williams (Pontwallen) and wife Margaret, and nine children; Thomas Evans and wife and four children. They became the early settlers of Gallia and Jackson Counties.

This band departed from Liverpool on a sailing vessel and were eight weeks on the ocean. They landed in Baltimore, Maryland, July 1, 1818. They went to Pittsburgh by way of wagons.

---

32 Daniel Jenkins Williams, "The Coming of the Welsh to Ohio". The Welsh of Columbus, Ohio.  
33 Portrait and Biographical Record of Allen and Van Wert Counties, Ohio...  
34 Virgil Evans, The Family Tree of John Jones (Tirbach).
and at that place were fitted out with flat boats for their journey down the Ohio River. They were mere rafts of heavy planks fastened to a framework with wooden pins and calked with a mixture of tow and tar. They suffered many hardships. Malaria fever was prevalent along the river and many of this group became ill. One death occurred shortly before the group reached Cincinnati.

When nearing the small town of Gallipolis, which was a thriving French settlement the boat carrying this group became partially disabled. They landed for repairs and also to secure provisions for the remainder of their trip. After accepting the hospitality of these French people they spent the night with them. A violent storm came up during the night and the fastenings of the port gave way and the rude craft drifted away at the mercy of the elements. Their first fears that they had lost all their belongings and that they were stranded among strangers was groundless. Their boat was discovered later, with their belongings intact.

When the men mentioned going on with their journey to Paddy's Run the women used their influence to have them remain. It seems the women had little confidence in the sailing ability of their husbands; and when they were on solid ground they did not wish to venture farther. Some have conjectured and said that perhaps the women were responsible for the missing boat and that they determined ahead of time that they would not go on. The Welsh women triumphed because they remained. There were other good reasons for choosing to remain. The French extended a welcome hand to these pioneers but the more likely inducement
was the fact that land thereabouts was plentiful and cheap, $50.00 being the standard price for forty acres. Forty acres seemed a tremendous amount of land to these settlers who had never owned any ground of their own. Health was another contributing factor for their decision. "Fever and ague were especially severe along the streams and river bottoms. Before settling the matter John Jones went to the Radnor Settlement. He reported the land to be low and flat and feared that there was malaria there. 35 An added inducement for settling at this point was the fact that the State was opening a road from Gallipolis to Chillicothe. These Welshmen, after determining to stay, went out to where Rodney now stands to get work. They heard of a fertile and healthy region a few miles west and here they settled near the village of Centerville, which is a part of Jackson County. 36

"These pioneers began to hew out homes for their families in the midst of wild forests. They found the work irksome inasmuch as they were not accustomed nor skilled in the use of the axe." The first houses were crude and of round logs, for they were eager to get settled and clear away a patch for their early crop. "Their land at this time was in Raccoon Township except for the farm of Lewis Davis. The County Line lay between his and the land of Evan Evans. Lewis Davis was the first Welshman therefore to settle in Jackson County. A few years later two tiers of sections of Western Gallia were added to Jackson and they all became residents of Madison Township, Jackson County". 37

35 Ibid.
36 Jones, "Welsh Settlements in Ohio".
37 Evans, loc. cit.
These Welshmen brought their Bibles with them. Though they belonged to the laboring class they were here with a fixed purpose. They had ambitions for themselves and their children. The sterling character which they gave their descendants is reflected in the high ideals of the settlement and its church growth. No less than twenty-five churches were built within the first forty years of their coming into the settlement. The Bible was read in their native tongue and its principles taught every Sunday of the year.\(^3&\)

The Welsh pioneers became farmers and marketed their products in Jackson and Gallipolis. There was little cash to buy their products because the men employed in road building were paid only sixteen cents a day. Oats brought eight cents per bushel and pork one and one-half cents per pound. Evans says that oats and beans were the most salable of their crops and were shipped down the river to feed the mules and slaves of the Southern plantations. He says that the eggs were marketed at from eight to ten cents a bushel.\(^39\) The pioneers took ginseng root, beeswax, tallow, rags, feathers, coon skins, dressed deer skins, venison hams and many other articles and bartered them for such articles as were absolutely necessary. "Ginseng brought 37\(\frac{1}{2}\)\(\text{c} \) and 50\(\text{c} \) a pound when washed very clean and thoroughly dried."\(^40\)

Davis Mackley, co-editor of the *Jackson Standard*, was born in Jackson County in 1818. His parents had come from Virginia and lived near the Welsh Settlement. His series of articles entitled "Pioneer Life" appeared weekly in the local paper.

\(^38\)Ibid.

\(^39\)Ibid.

\(^40\)Davis Mackley, "Pioneer Life", *Jackson Standard*, July 8, 1886.
and gave an insight to the way the early pioneer lived. "Wild bees were plenty and made large quantities of honey in the hollow trees. When the settler found the tree he would mark it with his initials and when it would suit him to do so, he would take his axe, and vessels to hold the honey, cut down the tree, cut into the part where the honey was to be found and carry it home. Often several gallons of honey was obtained in a tree. The land all belonged to the Government and was called 'Congress Land'. The pioneers respected the claims of the finder of the bee tree. The honey was strained and used in the family, not sold, but the wax was melted, made into cake and sold.

"There was very little paper used, but what was used was made of linen and cotton rags. Boys wore two linen shirts and it was all the clothing they wore in summer until they had grown nearly to manhood, and a boy ten to twelve years of age, never felt delicacy nor shame to be seen 'in his shirt tail' in company."41 Evans says in "Tirbach" that pantaloons were worn. "After the shirt had been worn until it could be patched no longer it was washed clean and sold for rags.

"All the pioneers kept geese, and while they had warm feather beds and pillows they could sell a good many feathers."42 Mackley says that the pioneers did not drink tea nor coffee. They were too expensive evidently and a substitute for coffee was "browned rye but it was put into a stout linen rag or cloth and pounded. So was the grain of a species of broom corn or sorghum. This was not browned but it was taken off the stalk.

41Ibid.
42Ibid.
and pounded in a cloth the same as the rye. This was called chocolate, or chocolate corn. Then spice wood and sassafras roots and dittany were used for tea.\textsuperscript{43}

"The pioneers ate corn mush, hominy and corn meal bread baked in cast iron ovens. Ovens were of different sizes holding two to three gallons. When the dough was put into the oven live coals were put under it and the lid, heated on the fire was put on and live coals were put on the lid, with a shovel made of a clapboard. There were no iron shovels. The dough was made by pouring some boiling water upon the meal and then putting in enough cold water to make it so it could be kneaded. A large handful of the dough was put into one corner of the oven. Three or four of these dodgers were put in for one baking. Sometimes the oven was filled half full or more, leveled on top and baked. This was called a pone. Sometimes the sweetest pumpkins were boiled very tender, well mashed and mixed with the dough and baked in a pone. This made very good bread. Sometimes the dough was permitted to remain in a warm place for a few hours until the first stages of fermentation had commenced and this was baked as a pone."\textsuperscript{44}

In one of Mackley's articles he spoke of the way the pioneer lived among his fellows. "Every pioneer had an earmark for his cattle, sheep and hogs and a brand for his horses. The horses were then turned loose on the range. The farmers would go once a week and give them salt." Mackley says this was often done on a Sunday as there was no church nor Sunday School to attend.\textsuperscript{45}

\textsuperscript{43}ibid.  
\textsuperscript{44}ibid. March 25, 1886.  
\textsuperscript{45}ibid.
The women worked very hard in the pioneer days. "The wife follows the plow and drops from three to five grains of corn some three feet apart for a hill. The older boy or girl took the hoe to cover it but two of the smaller children followed the mother or the person who drops the corn. One dropped a bean and the other a pumpkin seed in the hill with the corn. All were covered with some of the loose dirt which had been stirred up by the plow." 46

"The schools of the early days of Jackson County were crude buildings. There were no public schools in Jackson County in 1825. Settlers would agree to build a school house and would meet with axes, broad-ax, fro, mawl and iron wedge, horses, half sled and other necessary implements. In two or three days the house would be ready for use. Not a nail, in fact not an ounce of iron or a square of glass was about it. School houses were built when old abandoned cabins could be secured for school houses." 47 Jones in his "Welsh Settlements in Ohio" says of the schools, "School houses were few and far between and children had to wend their way two or three miles through thick forests, over rugged steeps and dashing streams, to these halls of learning. The school houses were of a rude primitive style, built of round logs about 16 x 18 feet, with stick and mud chimney built outside, and a fireplace for burning logs six or seven feet long. The door had wooden latch and hinges and sometimes it was made of clapboards. At the end was a row of window glass, or oftener, oiled paper to admit the light. It contained a puncheon floor, made of sapplings hewed upon the upper side.

46Ibid.
47W. C. Wilmore in a letter to the editor of the Jackson Standard, written on "Schools in Jackson County Sixty Years Ago", January 8, 1885.
The benches were made of slabs or split logs and generally too high for the feet of the little urchins to reach the floor, and nothing to lean the back against. Here in these small dusty prison-like rooms the school master stood and with rod in hand, savage looks and a gruff voice crammed the three R's into our hollow craniums.

For the first ten years of the Welshmen's existence in Jackson County his neighbors were the Virginians but about 1830 immigrants from Wales joined them.

In 1829 and 1831 additional families arrived from Wales. Rev. Edward Jones arrived in 1833 and preached a Welsh sermon, the first the settlers had heard in the Welsh language since leaving their native land. No attempt had been made on the part of the early settler to have Welsh preached in their meetings according to Evans in his book about his ancestors. If we accept Mackley's viewpoint there was not much church activity on the part of the early settler. After delivering many sermons to the group Rev. Jones returned to Wales and wrote a glowing description of the resources of Gallia and Jackson Counties. "As a consequence in 1834, and for ten years following immigrants, principally from Cardiganshire, South Wales, came in great numbers. These immigrants located at different points over an area of perhaps twenty miles in diameter, until the whole of Jefferson and Madison Townships were occupied and extending to Raccoon, Perry and Greenfield Townships in Gallia County, afterwards into Bloomfield, Lick and Coal Townships, Jackson, Ohio."

48Jones, "Welsh Settlements in Ohio".
49Evans, loc. cit.
50Ibid.
The decade from 1840 to 1850 brought hard times for these pioneers and they had a struggle to buy their land and stock. But with these disconcerting circumstances they maintained their religious enthusiasm. Many had come from Aberystwyth and had witnessed religious awakenings in their native land. They had their family altars and soon erected churches. The first chapel was built at Moriah in the year 1836. It is situated about midway between Oak Hill and Centerville and near the center of the Welsh settlement. The Welsh language was used in its services. Churches were built at Horeb in 1838; Centerville, 1840; Soar, 1841; Bethel, 1841; Sardis, 1843; Bethania, 1846; Oak Hill, 1850; Peniel, 1874; and Jackson, 1880. The Baptists erected four chapels in Oak Hill, Centerville, Bethlehem and Ebenezer.51

Rev. Robert Williams of Moriah, Rev. J. W. Evans of Oak Hill and Rev. E. S. Jones of Centerville each served their churches for a half century and their outstanding influence on their congregations was a marked characteristic. Jackson County produced other outstanding personalities among them many ministers, prominent educators, physicians, business men and musicians.52 The Welsh added much to the general prosperity of the County and it is said were found to be less clannish and more readily Americanized than many other classes of foreigners.53 They proved energetic, prudent and honorable citizens. 'They are among the most substantial citizens of the County.'54

51Ibid.
52Ibid.
53James P. Averill, Historical Hand-Atlas...Map of Gallia County, and Histories of Lawrence and Gallia Counties, Ohio. 54"The Old Pioneer Sketches of Early Settlers--Official Life-items", History of Lower Scioto Valley, Ohio, 1884.
An outstanding pioneer of Jackson who gave much of his energies to perpetuate the eisteddfod was Eben Jones. Jones was born in Cardiganshire in 1837 and when three years of age came with his parents to Jackson County. By his perseverance he furthered his education enabling him to teach school. He became an outstanding industrial leader in Jackson County after the Civil War but these activities did not mar his active interest in things cultural for himself and others. "He loved music and was for many years a choir director in church and a Sunday School worker." He was a firm believer in the eisteddfod and it was largely through his efforts that the first eisteddfod in Jackson County was made possible.\textsuperscript{55} In 1922, his son, John E. Jones, contributed greatly to the formation of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association and since its inception has been a member of the Executive Committee.

Jackson was fertile soil for the eisteddfod movement. Settlers had invested their money in blast furnaces for the manufacture of pig iron, Jefferson and Cambrian furnaces being exclusively owned by Welshmen. The Jefferson furnace was never allowed to be operated on the Sabbath day it is said and because it was the most prosperous furnace in Southern Ohio many Welsh stockholders became the wealthiest citizens in Jackson. The residents also had an interest in music. As early as 1885 music training was common. The following newspaper article reflects the emphasis of music in the life of many citizens of Jackson. "Today there are few families that have not a musical

\textsuperscript{55}Ninth Annual Eisteddfod Official Program, Jackson, O., 1930.
instrument in the house, either organ or piano and music teaching has come to be a great work. There are hundreds of children in Jackson who take their music lessons as regularly as they take lessons in any other branch of education."56 With such a heritage Jackson has enjoyed an enviable reputation for the cultural interests and has become the home of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association.

56Jackson Standard, January 8, 1885.
IV. EARLY EISTEDDFOD ACTIVITY IN JACKSON COUNTY

The Welsh people came to Jackson in 1818, but it was nearly a half century later before any eisteddfod activity was apparent. As a matter of fact the eisteddfod movement in Wales did not develop until after the early Welsh settlers were established in Jackson and Gallia Counties. To say that the eisteddfod did not exist among the immigrants of the 1830 migration seems doubtful. Singing and the eisteddfod, since its revival, has been such a part of a Welshman's musical life that it is unlikely that the Welsh immigrants were inactive in holding eisteddfods at least on a small scale. We know that at the Horeb Church the eisteddfod was held under the modest name of Literary Meetings. Such a meeting was held November 9, 1863. It might be called the first eisteddfod in Jackson County although the first eisteddfod under the name of eisteddfod was held at Oak Hill, Ohio, October 6-7, 1875.

Much of the credit for the 1875 eisteddfod has been given to Eben Jones but certainly John Hutchins added incentive for the festival. Hutchins was a choir director and interested in the eisteddfod. He took a choir for competition to the 1873 annual Christmas eisteddfod in Cincinnati, Ohio. His singers came from Horeb, Sardis, Centerville and wherever else he could get good voices. The Jackson County Male Voice Choir won first prize and the mixed chorus compared favorably with the more experienced choir of Cincinnati. Because they were successful members of his choir were eager to hold an eisteddfod in Jackson County.

The eisteddfod in Cincinnati in 1874 was again supported by
the Jackson County singers and though they were not adjudged to be the winners in either of the choral numbers they made a favorable impression. In fact between sessions the victorious Cincinnati choir decided to share the prize money with its Jackson County contestants. "CaradYG Gwent" was the name given to the leader of the 1874 Jackson County Choir and no other name appears in describing him. It is common practice for the Welsh people to give someone a nick name and call him by that only. "Brython", "Tirbach", "Tymawr" are familiar appellations. "CaradYG Gwent" must have been a good singer because he won the competition in the Bass Solo and the contest of singing music at sight at this Cincinnati eisteddfod. The Cincinnati event was well attended. "There were five to seven hundred people at each meeting, nearly one hundred being from Jackson County, the largest representation ever seen."  

1. Oak Hill Eisteddfod, 1875.

Jackson County was enthusiastic for the eisteddfod to be held at Oak Hill and in the Jackson Standard advertisements covering this event were carried regularly from the July 1 issue until October 6 when the eisteddfod occurred. The competition was not restricted being "open to all bards and all persons of the United States." The eisteddfod was held for two days, October 6-7, at the large and commodious camp meeting tabernacle of the Ohio Conference.

Rev. David J. Jenkins gave an inspiring address of welcome at the festival. Among other things he said, "We thank you for your money--it is very good in its place but we want you all to

57Jackson Standard, January 7, 1875.
58Ibid.
59October, 14, 1875.
understand that we act from a higher motive than love of money, when we welcome you here. We desire to impress upon the tablet of your heart the fact that we work upon you as co-workers in raising and elevating humanity by cultivating poetry, music and art and may we feel as one in the great work of raising the arts and purifying the minds of those around us not by the instrumentality of the eisteddfod only but mainly by our Sunday Schools and by the preaching of the gospel.”

Jenkins traced the history of the eisteddfod briefly and asked, "What is the object of these gatherings; what is the end of the eisteddfod?" "What advantage have they been to you as a nation or what profit do you expect to obtain through their instrumentality in the future?" He answered his own questions by pointing out that they have been productive of signal proof to the cause of the Welsh leadership, by promoting a spirit of inquiry into the antiquities of Wales. "They have also stimulated the genius of our countrymen by distributing rewards for the best compositions in prose and verse. They have been instrumental in bringing out talent, in removing the rubbish of disadvantage caused by prejudice and worth. And last, but not least, they are well adapted to create and encourage a strong feeling for the cultivation of its poetry and music". Rev. Jenkins encouraged the use of the Welsh language and justified its study by pointing out that the Welsh language is worth preserving for its priceless literature. "There are over 2,000 manuscripts containing specimens of the authorship of every century from the fifth downward", Jenkins stated. He pointed out that the Welsh could be patriotic in America and still encourage the

60 ibid.
learning of the Welsh language and referred with pride to their activities in the Civil War. 61

There were twenty-seven competitive numbers at the Oak Hill Eisteddfod. Eleven were given in the Welsh language and in three numbers it was optional to use the Welsh or English language. The Glee Club entry singing "The Lone Star" was sung in Welsh and divided between Oak Hill and the Cincinnati singers. Oak Hill and Cincinnati also divided the male chorus singing "The Hunter's Farewell". Three juvenile choruses competed singing "Jesus Lover of My Soul". Of the three groups the Cambria Furnace Choir was successful. The Grand Choral number was won by the Cincinnati singers. They had competition from the Jackson Choral Society, Oak Hill Chorus, Union Choir and the Tronton Chorus. With such large competition the eisteddfod was considered a success.

An added attraction was the Grand Concert following the eisteddfod. All choirs and contestants were required to give their talent gratis for this evening session. This eisteddfod was the beginning of a larger musical activity for the residents of Jackson County.

2. The First Eisteddfod in Jackson, Ohio, 1877.

To many Independence Day means the celebration of the breaking of home ties between the United States and Great Britain. However the Jackson County Literary Association chose that day in 1877 to hold the eisteddfod in Jackson, Ohio thus renewing a bond between the Welsh immigrants and their descendants with Wales. Inasmuch as the eisteddfod is 61Tbid.
peculiar to the Welsh the revival of the eisteddfod in
Jackson and throughout the United States reflects the
longing that comes to many immigrants for their native
land, and its traditions though they may be very well
settled in the adopted country. A favorite song by all
Welshmen whenever they gather for congregational singing
whether it be in the Welsh or English language is called
"Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau"(Land of My Fathers). The first verse
is given in Welsh and English:

Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn anwyl i mi,
(The land of my fathers, the land of my choice)
Gwlad beirdd a chantorion, enwigion o fri;
(The land in which poets and minstrels rejoice)
Bu gwo-
ol rhy-fel-wyr, gwlad-gar-wyrtra mad,
(The land whose stern warrior were true to the core)
Tros rydd-id coll-as-ant eu gwaed
(While bleeding for free-dom of yore).

Chorus: Gwlad, gwlad, pleidiol wyi i'm gwlad,
(Wales, Wales! fav'rite land of Wales)
Tra mor yn fur i' r hoff hoff bau,
(While sea her wall, may naught befall)
0 bydded i'r hen iaith bar-hau.........
(To mar the old language of Wales).

Mountainous old Cambria, the Eden of bards,
Each hill and each valley, excite my regards;
To the ears of her patriots how charming still seems
The music that flows in her streams.

My country, tho crushed by a hostile array,
The language of Cambria lives out to this day;
The muse has eluded the traitors' foul knives,
The harp of my country survives.

Jackson was eager for competition and a large audience
for its first eisteddfod. There appeared a weekly advertisement
covering this event in the local newspapers from the May 17
issue until the eisteddfod was held on July 4. The officials
for the eisteddfod were foresighted. They knew that in order
to encourage competition in Jackson County they must eliminate experienced competitors from Cincinnati, Cleveland and other places where the eisteddfod was established. To accomplish this they had to restrict competitors. All entrants were required to live in Jackson County or the counties adjoining Jackson. To assure attraction to the event two choral numbers were extended to the entire state, and a Grand Concert was held in the evening. Jackson was foresighted in another way. Whereas so many of the competitions at the Oak Hill Eisteddfod were required to be given in the Welsh language no entry in the first Jackson eisteddfod was to be given in the foreign language. There may have been two reasons for this; (1) The adjudicators may have been unable to translate the Welsh language. The adjudicator for the essays and readings was President W. H. Scott of Ohio University and the judge of the poems and recitations was President D. H. Moore of Cincinnati Wesleyan College. (2) The other reason may have been that by having the competition in the English language more people of the second generation of the Welsh immigrants would become interested. If their aim was to make Jackson eisteddfod-conscious they succeeded because that little town in Southern Ohio has held this inspiring annual festival with the loyal support of most of its citizenry.

The officers of the 1877 eisteddfod were:
President, Eben Jones; Secretary, C. A. Atkinson; Conductor, Hon. John J. C. Evans. Seven persons served as adjudicators as follows: Music, Prof. J. P. Jones, Chicago, Illinois; Englyn, Rev. Samuel Williams, Wilkes Barre, Pa., Essay, Rev. E. Evans, Oak Hill, Ohio; Translation J. Edward Jones, Oak Hill, Ohio; Declamation, three adjudicators

The Jackson Eisteddfod was held for one day only and its sessions were followed in the evening by a concert. The admission charge was $1.00 for the day or 50 cents for each session. Children under fifteen were charged half price.

The competitors at the Jackson Eisteddfod were for the most part from Jackson. For the choral numbers the Jackson M. E. Choir, Jacksonians and Jackson Union Choir were the only entrants. The Jackson Juvenile Chorus was successful in singing "Up With Thy Hands to Jesus" and in the entry calling for a Solo and eight voices. The Jacksonians were successful in the other choral number. These choirs shared with individual contestants the $250 distributed. With competition restricted to residents of Jackson County the eisteddfod had local significance only but much was the beginning of eisteddfods in Jackson, Ohio later called "The Home of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod".

3. Other early eisteddfods in Jackson, Ohio.

The Jackson Literary Association continued to function and on June 12, 1878 held its second assembly although the competition as in the previous event restricted all contestants except Jackson County residents. The following adjudicators served for this event: Music, Professor Bleemenschein, Portsmouth, Ohio; Literary, Rev. J. W. Peters and Professor J. L. Hatfield, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. 62

62 Jackson Standard, May 1; June 12, 1878.
The third and fourth assemblies of the Association were well attended but the prizes offered attracted small competition. J. W. Longbon was an active and successful competitor in four of the literary numbers at the June 4, 1979 event. Five choral numbers added interest to the program. The Oak Hill Male Party was the only chorus singing "The Legend of the Rhine" but they were awarded the $15. prize. The eisteddfod held in 1930 offered one hundred times that money for the male chorus. The Oak Hill Choral Society, directed by Dr. Joseph Jones competed with the Jackson Union Choral Society, led by M. D. Jones, singing "Be Not Afraid" from Elijah. The $60. prize was divided. Eben Jones directed the Jackson Children's Chorus singing "Waiting and Watching". They were the only entrant. Three choirs competed on the entry "Let the Hills and Valleys Resound". Eben Jones successfully directed the Jackson Juveniles to win the $25. prize. Jones was also the director of the Jackson Juveniles when they sang "To the Work". They had no competitors on this number. Only one brass band entered the competition—the Jackson Silver Band. The competition was larger than at any other Jackson eisteddfod and may account for the 2,000 persons who attended the sessions. It was indicative of the appeal that this Welsh festival had for the residents of Jackson County.

Hon. Irvine Dungan gave the address of welcome to the assembly held July 27-28, 1880. He told the audience that the greatest prize is not the crown nor the reward. "It is the
training that goes before the effect and the development that results. The preparation and the effort make you stronger..." His conclusion was that it is more important to compete than win the prize. The prizes for the fourth assembly were larger than had been given previously, $100. being the award in the Grand Choral entry.

Further enthusiasm for the eisteddfod waned and no eisteddfod was held in Jackson again until 1887 when it was revived on a very small scale at the Crescent Opera House, February 17. This eisteddfod was very poorly planned and the large program was crowded into one session for which an admission fee of 25 cents was charged for adults and 15 cents for children. The prizes were very small, 50 cents being the award in many entries.

4. The Eisteddfod of 1897.

After this small eisteddfod, enthusiasm for such events disappeared completely for ten years. An attempt had been made to hold an event in 1895 but "hard times and other causes led to the postponement..." However the members of the Presbyterian Church made an effort in February, 1897 to organize another eisteddfod October 14 of that year and their ambitions were realized. The officers responsible for the success of the 1897 meeting were:

President................Eben Jones...........
First Vice-President.....Dr. W. E. Williams.
Second Vice-President...Dr. E. C. Powell...
Treasurer.................R. W. Thomas........
Recording Secretary.....W. H. Sloan...........
Corresponding Secretary.T. J. Williams.......

63Jackson Standard, March 24, 1897.
64Tbid.
A tent was procured from McCormick Brothers of Gallipolis for the three sessions of the eisteddfod which accommodated 1100 persons at the opening event. 1500 persons in the afternoon session and 1800 for the evening concert again revealed the interest Jackson held for a successful eisteddfod. The tent was found uncomfortable but in 1897 it was all there was available for the occasion. Thirty years later Jackson built an eisteddfod auditorium to properly house the audience.

The eisteddfod was well arranged and the reception committee of twenty-five members headed by Judge R. W. Wilson doubtless added to the comfort of the audience. The twenty-five messenger boys whose duty it was to escort the strangers to their places evidence of the organization and interest shown for the event.65 Mayor R. L. Grimes of Jackson gave the address of welcome to the many visitors from other parts of the State. Hon. H. L. Chapman served as conductor. Governor Asa A. Bushnell was the conductor of the afternoon session and pleased the Welsh people immensely by announcing correctly the congregational hymn to be sung—“Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau”. Captain W. W. Peabody of the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. served as conductor of the evening concert and the presence of these prominent men led further to the attractiveness of the program.

The adjudicators of the 1897 festival were outstanding. Dr. Daniel Protheroe served as music adjudicator and his reputation was respected by all musicians present. Professor D. J. Evans of Ohio University and President J. M. Davis of Rio Grande

---

65Ibid, October 16, 1897.
served as literary judges.

Over $500. was given away in prizes and attracted competition throughout the State. Only one Sunday School chorus entered the contest however. They were the Moriah Choir directed by Thomas D. Jenkins. The "greatest contest of the morning session" came when the Jackson Ladies' Chorus led by Mrs. Adele Mathews competed with the Gounod Chorus of Venedocia directed by J. H. Richards. The $50. prize went to the Venedocia group. Three entries on the double quartette entry singing "The Boatman's Goodnight" gave "one of the finest of the day". These groups were the Gondoliers of Lima and Ada; Arlingtons of Venedocia and Gounod Chorus of Columbus. The group from Venedocia won this entry also. The prizes continued to leave Jackson when J. Thomas Peat of Lima won the Baritone Solo, The Mariners of Lima the Trio and The Philharmonic Club of Columbus was successful in winning the Male Chorus under the direction of William E. Knox. The other contestants of the Male chorus were: The Jackson Male Chorus, led by M. D. Jones and the Venedocia Club led by R. R. Thomas. "The rendition by the Philharmonic Club was so fine there was practically no contest".66

President Eben Jones greeted the 1800 persons at the evening session. The Glee Club from Lima and Ada led by Hugh W. Owens succeeded over the Guonod Society of Columbus to capture the $100. prize. Jackson continued to lose the large prizes and the Venedocia Mixed Chorus directed by R. R. Thomas

66 Ibid.
received the $200 Grand Prize. Thomas was recognized as an outstanding choir director and was induced years later to become the Supervisor of Public School Music of the Jackson, Ohio schools.

The 1897 eisteddfod was the first held in Jackson in which competition was open to all. The more experienced choirs of Lima, Venedocia and Columbus gave the Jackson County competitors real eisteddfod competition which apparently discouraged them to continue any eisteddfod activity in Jackson. At least we find no eisteddfod of any outstanding worth until a quarter of a century later.

After the successful eisteddfod in 1897 there was not another held in Jackson until 1913. It must be said however that music lovers in Jackson were interested in the eisteddfod and other musical activities. The musicians of the county formed The Jackson Oratorio Society about 1900 and their energies were given over to the presentation of The Creation and The Messiah. The Gymanfa Gамu held in Oak Hill in 1900 was well attended by the Jackson County residents.67

Evidently the director of The Jackson Oratorio Society was an eisteddfod enthusiast and a capable musician because he was called upon to be the music adjudicator at the eisteddfod held in Columbus, Ohio, March 3, 1902. Perhaps because their leader was adjudicator the Jackson singers did not compete at the Columbus event. There is no record of their participation.

67Jackson Herald, June 2, 1900.
An apparent lack of ability on the part of the Jackson singers was evident at the Oak Hill Eisteddfod, December 28, 1906 because none of the Jackson contestants were successful. Perhaps this fact discouraged them to continue in their musical activities and no organization seemed effective until the Jackson County Male Chorus was organized with Prof. K. R. Thomas as director. Thomas had moved into Jackson in April, 1911, and evidently did not take long to instill the eisteddfod activity into the Jackson singers and they were contestants at the Lima, Ohio eisteddfod, New Year's Day, 1912. When the group competed at Lima it was their first public appearance, but they were the successful choir. To carry the prize against the experienced Lima singers reflected the possibilities of this choir.

The Jackson County Male Chorus practiced regularly and by May 9, 1912 when they appeared in a concert the group had one hundred members. "The organization proved a great stimulus for the improvement of the art of singing and the development of a taste for good music." The choir prepared for the Columbus eisteddfod to be held New Year's Day in 1913 and held a concert Christmas night preceding to help defray their expenses. To compete at the Columbus eisteddfod did not take the courage that was necessary when they went to Pittsburgh to compete at the Grand International the previous July. Competition at the International was exceedingly larger than they had witnessed previously but they were proud to rate about fifth among the seventeen male choruses present.

68bid, January 2, 1907.
69bid, January 2, 1912.
70bid.
Professor Thomas left Jackson in the fall of 1913 but the male chorus he had directed so successfully conducted an eisteddfod in Jackson, October 24, 1913. Hon. D. Edgar Morgan of Cleveland served as conductor for the event and the honorary presidents were: Moses Morgan, Dr. J. E. Sylvester and Rev. R. O. Williams. T. Amos Jones served as adjudicator of music and E. O. Roberts adjudicated the essay. The drawing adjudicator was Dan Alban. This eisteddfod did not have many Welsh features but they were not missed by the American audience. Many of the contestants were not familiar with the eisteddfod but competed "to promote its success and not because they expected to win the prize...". The prizes in many instances were small, several of them donations by the local business men. Competition for the 1913 eisteddfod was not large but there was at least one entry in all the numbers offered. One of the successful competitors, Thomas Paton Edwards, in later years served as drawing adjudicator and cartoonist for the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association. The large awards went to Jackson, W. E. Davies directing the male chorus and Prof. Dan Milton Morgan the successful mixed choral group. It is not likely that this eisteddfod was known outside of Jackson County.

The eisteddfod in Jackson again becomes dormant from 1914–1922 but the residents of the County demonstrated their enthusiasm for the movement at the Rio Grande eisteddfods held in 1918, 1919 and 1920. The Oak Hill and Jackson Male groups won alternately in 1918 and 1919 and awaited the 1920

71Jackson Standard Journal, October, 29, 1913.
72Ibid.
eisteddfod to determine the winner who was to have won twice out of the three times. This rivalry created enthusiasm. The writer assumes that Oak Hill was the final winner as nothing is mentioned of the result of this contest in the local paper. The writer would not like to give the impression that the Jackson people are poor losers. Their fine record of sportsmanship throughout their eisteddfod activity would certainly discredit such a thought.

In 1920, 1921 and 1922 the Jackson Choral Society was especially active in giving concerts and participating in musical activities. It was composed of singers from Oak Hill, Wellston, Rio Grande, Portsmouth and other towns near Jackson. Because the society attracted the singers of these Southern Ohio towns they made possible the organization which at present conducts the annual eisteddfod under the name of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association.
THE SOUTHERN OHIO EISTEDDFOD ASSOCIATION TO 1930

When the Jackson Choral Society held their musical program at the Christian Church May 29, 1922 Rev. J. C. White was the chairman of the evening. At the close of the concert he extended an invitation to all those interested in having a large eisteddfod in Jackson to remain. Most of the audience participated in this later meeting when it was decided to hold such an event in October, 1922. Many meetings were called thereafter and by June 1 the following list of officers were announced:

President.................John E. Jones........
First Vice-President........G. S. Morgan........
Second Vice-President........S. E. Stephenson.....
General Secretary...........D. E. Howell........
Financial Secretary.........Charles H. Jones.....
Treasurer..................C. O. Brown..........

The name chosen for the organization was the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association and the following counties were invited to participate in this association: Meigs, Lawrence, Ross, Scioto, Gallia, Athens, Pike and Jackson. Other counties were added at the discretion of the committee. 74

1. The First Annual of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association, October 20, 1922.

The accommodations for the first year of the Association was a commodious tent shipped from Dayton. It was heated by a gas line and small stoves were placed inside. But with all these efforts to assure comfort the audience was cold throughout the evening session. Their loyalty seems to have been complete and the crowd listened until late to the singing. 75

73Jackson Herald, June 1, 1922.
74Ibid.
75Ibid, October 21, 1922.
Before the morning session, all was in readiness for the hundreds of persons who were coming into this small town. Every available seat was taken for the first session and the 2500 present awaited the competitions with expectancy. Traffic had to be regulated because of the hundreds of automobiles heading toward Jackson. The eisteddfod committee, in cooperation with the police department worked out a set of regulations which were enforced. Portsmouth Street from South Street to Broad Street was blocked off and used exclusively for a parking space for visiting automobiles. The residents of Jackson were requested to leave their automobiles at home to avoid any congestion.

The Conductor, Rev. Jones, and Adjudicator, Dr. Daniel Protheroe, of the 1922 eisteddfod had previously served in these capacities at the 1897 eisteddfod. Other adjudicators were William Cooper, literary, and Miss Fauntobelle Latimer, drawing and penmanship. Dr. Protheroe was very helpful in his musical adjudications. Many Welshmen take these remarks seriously and regard them in the nature of a music lesson. For example Dr. Protheroe told them to sing ideas, not notes. He deplored the jazz music common after the World War and urged them to sing the best music. Among other things he condemned the tremelo. To encourage professionalism he urged the singers to memorize their music in order that they could perform without copy. Protheroe's great experience and reputation added power to his remarks.
Competition for the 1922 eisteddfod came largely from Southern Ohio. The Wellston Ladies' Chorus took the prize of $75.00 against the Jackson Ladies' Chorus and the Wellston Male Chorus was successful over three groups including Gallipolis, Jackson and Oak Hill. Jackson also most the mixed chorus prize of $200. Four choruses entered this competition; Wellston, Middleport, Jackson and Portsmouth, with Portsmouth winning the prize. The Vinton Male Quartette was successful over the Oak Hill group. The excellent singing of the choruses, it was reported, repaid the thousands of listeners for their exposure to intense cold throughout the evening program and the audience received with enthusiasm the announcement of the Second Annual to be held September 27, 1923.76

2. The Second Annual, 1923.

Jackson was especially honored when the Second Annual Eisteddfod attracted such distinguished visitors as Hon. James J. Davis, then Secretary of the Labor, Senator Thomas A Jenkins of Trenton, Hon. Perry F. Powers of Cadillac, Michigan as well as Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Waddell of Washington, D. C., who came to attend the festival. Mrs. Waddell is the daughter of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes whom the Welsh people of America claim as one of their leading citizens.

For adjudication Dr. Daniel E. Protheroe was again present for the music. Rev. William D. Surnival, Archdruid of the

76Ibid.
American Gorsedd, served as Literary Adjudicator and Paton Edwards, cartoonist of an Akron Daily, served as judge of the drawing and penmanship. The official accompanists were Laura Davis Morgan and Dale Jackson.

An editorial in the Jackson Herald reflected the enthusiasm of the community on the occasion of this Second Annual Eisteddfod: "We can imagine nothing that brings the community closer together or that lifts it to a higher plane of excellence than a contest of this kind. It is clean, elevating, heavenly to listen to the children's program in the morning. It was to forget one's self and sit and listen always to such featured music." In one competition there were thirty entries of which only three made the stage. The editor commented on the vast amount of practicing necessary by the pupil and instructor alike. He reflected the true eisteddfod spirit however when he said: "No doubt some of the losers gained more than the winners. We are stronger than ever for the eisteddfod in Jackson County. Jackson County is on the map—let's keep it there."77

The attendance at the 1923 festival was large and the tent was taxed to accommodate the audience of 4,000 people. Visitors from eighteen states and thirty-eight cities evidenced that the institution was nationally known. Such Welsh-American newspapers as The Druid and Y Drych served as national advertising mediums. Jackson had planned for a large attendance and the "traffic was handled efficiently

77October 13, 1923.
by Chief of Police Jacobs, and several special appointed policemen, without an accident. Every available space within a mile of the Fair Grounds was in use and the traffic police were still on their beat at 12:30 o'clock. Because so many of the residents of Jackson were competitors most of the business houses were closed at 10 o'clock A. M. Thursday and remained closed throughout the day. The schools of the city and nearby towns were dismissed as many of the members of the choruses were of school age.

Prizes for the 1923 eisteddfod amounted to $1,000 in cash and one violin valued at $100. The money for the prizes was donated by the business men of Jackson, Oak Hill and Wellston. Such prizes as $400. for the mixed choral competition and $250. for the male voice entry attracted choirs from different parts of the State.

Hon. James J. Davis gave an address at the afternoon session which served as an added attraction. Mr. Davis has always been an eisteddfod enthusiast. He was active in bringing the Pittsburgh International Eisteddfod in 1913 to a reality and today all Welshmen in America interested in the eisteddfod are awaiting announcement from him of the new proposed international eisteddfod to be held again in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Davis stressed the contributions made by Welsh people in America. "The love of music which lies in the heart of every Welshman is one of the greatest contributions which the Cambrian race has made to civilization in America... I have no doubt that many of the perplexing problems which seem so
vital to us in America today would fade away and disappear if we could implant in the hearts of every American that true love of music, that appreciation of the meaning of music and that spiritual uplift which lies in music...

Mr. Davis passed in review the famous sons of the Cambrian race who have given much to America, including Roger Williams, the founder of Providence; Elihu Yale of Plos Newydd, North Wales who donated a sum of money to found the University that bears his name; Jonathon Edwards, William Penn and Thomas Jefferson. He claimed John Adams and Samuel Adams for the Welsh as well as Robert Morris and Welsh signers of the Declaration of Independence and stressed the outstanding contributions of such men as Charles Evans Hughes to America.

Mr. Davis' summary is interesting: "The Welsh came to America to be true Americans. Today they lead all nationalities in this country in the proportion of aliens who become citizens. Nearly 75% of the aliens in America who were born in Wales are today naturalized citizens. This is a record no other nation can boast. It is an index of the Welsh love for the equality of opportunity, and the rights of the individual. Beyond and above these things the Welsh brought to America their love of music, the expression of all the great virtues of their race."

The competition for the 1923 eisteddfod was largely from Southern Ohio although John T. Davis of Columbus wrote the successful poem, "The Welsh Pioneers of America". The Tenor Solo was won by Frederick Brown of Cleveland, Ohio and the Soprano Solo was won by Mrs. Roy Lutes of Dayton. Several
choirs entered the choral numbers and the following were successful: Jackson Children's Choir over Wellston and Portsmouth; Jackson Jeanette Choir over Portsmouth, and the Wellston-Logan Male Chorus over the Jackson-Oak Hill Male Party. The mixed chorus made up of singers from Wellston and Logan also were successful over the Portsmouth and Jackson groups. At the close of this competition Prof. R. R. Thomas directed the three mixed choruses to sing, "The Star Spangled Banner" and end the Second Annual Eisteddfod.

3. The Festivals of 1925 and 1926.

The Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association became such a fixed institution by the end of the Fifth Annual Eisteddfod that it was apparent that some permanent building was essential to accommodate the enthusiastic audiences. The 1925 eisteddfod was similar to the previous events. The Wellston-Junior and Senior High School Choruses were successful over their Jackson competitors but in the Ladies' and Male Choruses Jackson was successful. The grand prize of $500, however was again taken by the Portsmouth Chorus.

The attendance at the 1926 eisteddfod was greater than in 1924 and 1925. To advertise the event and create interest a band of eighteen men stopped at Portsmouth, Sciotoville, Wheelersburg, Ironton, Russell, Ashland, Huntington and Gallipolis prior to the eisteddfod and gave concerts. At the 1926 eisteddfod, Jackson was successful in the three major competitions. Professor Thomas directed the successful Male
Voice Party and Mixed Chorus, and Mrs. Mary Jackson Burgess led the Cecilian Ladies' Choir victoriously to bring added honor to Jackson. The three competitions enabled Jackson to retain the $1350. awarded for the choral numbers.

Mr. Edwin Griffith and Charles E. Dawe of Cleveland were visitors of the 1926 eisteddfod. Both received congratulations for the fine showing of the orpheus Choir at the Welsh National Eisteddfod in Swansea, South Wales, the previous summer. Dawe directed the successful group but Griffith sponsored the undertaking which it is said cost him $50,000. to send the 100 men overseas to compete.80 For the evening session Dawe substituted as musical adjudicator as Dr. Protheroe was called away because of the death of his wife.

An outstanding instrumental competition was won by Adrienne Marie Wright in the Violin Solo number. The Wellston High School Chorus was successful in singing "Welcome Pretty Primrose Flower". There were the only group outside of Jackson winning any of the choral numbers. 81

4. The Eisteddfod of 1927.

In many respects the 1927 festival was the most outstanding local eisteddfod held in Jackson. Large prizes were offered for all the numbers, $5.00 being the smallest prize offered. Because of the large prizes competition was unusually large and 5,000 persons attended the sessions. There were eleven entrants for the Soprano Solo; six for the Solo for boys under sixteen; thirteen for the Recitation for Girls under fifteen; and twelve girls contested for the Solo for

80 Magazine Graphic Section, Columbus Sunday Dispatch, April 15, 1934.
81 Jackson Sun Journal, October 5, 1926.
Girls under fifteen. Twelve contestants tried for the Piano Solo for those under eighteen. The recitation, "Our Country's Flag", attracted nineteen entrants and twenty tried for the Tenor Solo. The translation contest from English to Welsh induced ten entrants. Many choirs entered the competition. The Jackson Grade School Chorus won over Wellston, Coalton and the group of Miss Morgan. The Jackson High School Chorus was successful over the High School Chorus of Wellston. The Jackson M. E. Choir was successful over Washington C. H., Gallipolis M. E., Jackson Welsh, Portsmouth Trinity, Jackson Christian, Portsmouth Christian, Nelsonville M. E., Oak Hill Presbyterian and Wellston M. E. Choirs. Dr. Protheroe encouraged the church choirs denouncing the church quartette which he said had killed congregational singing. The Cleveland Male Chorus was victor over Wellston-Logan, Portsmouth, Venedocia-Gomer, Jackson-Oak Hill and Zanesville Choirs singing "The Crusades". The Ladies' Chorus was taken by the Findley-Lima singers. The other ladies' groups were: Wellston-Logan, Ohio University Glee Club, Portsmouth, Lorain and Jackson-Oak Hill Choruses. The outstanding competition came last when the Wellston Mixed Chorus was successful over the Northwestern Choir, made up of singers from Venedocia, Findlay and Lima; Jackson-Oak Hill; Lorain; and Columbus in singing "Lift Up Your Heads O Ye Gates". Though the Northwestern groups did not win much of the prize money at the 1927 event, this eisteddfod marks their entry as a challenge to the Southern Ohio singers and to the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association itself.

Jackson Herald, October 8, 1927.
5. The Eisteddfod of 1928.

Because of the outstanding character of the 1927 eisteddfod various groups throughout the State prepared for the 1928 festival. Competition was again very large. Jackson was successful in winning the Children's Chorus and High School Choral numbers. The Jackson Cecilian Ladies' Chorus divided the prize of $300. with the singers from Lima. The Jackson M. E. Choir was successful in singing "Blessed Jesu, Fount of Mercy". Only two male choruses were in the competition--The Wellston-Logan and Jackson-Oak Hill groups. The Jackson-Oak Hill party under the direction of Professor Thomas won the $400. prize singing "The Pilgrim's Chorus". Lima captured the other large prizes when the mixed quartette and mixed chorus were successful. As competition the Jackson-Oak Hill and Wellston-Logan Choruses challenged the Lima singers who took the $600. prize. These victories were the forerunner of consistent winnings by the Lima Mixed Chorus at the Jackson Eisteddfod. An editorial in the Jackson Herald covering the eisteddfod said: "They have a leader who knew how to get the best out of them and they were the victors without serious criticism of verdict of the adjudicator. The Lima chorus shows the result of eisteddfod training. For many years they have been participating in music contests held either in Lima or some other near the city. Not only do they have a big eisteddfod similar to the one in Jackson but they have in that section of the State school eisteddfods in which the schools from adjacent cities compete. Professor Mark Evans was a teacher in Lima for twenty years before going to Ada and he has built up a great musical atmos-
phere. This background accounts for their success this year which was begun last year when several contestants won some minor competitions." 83

The adjudicators for the 1928 eisteddfod were:

Music..................Dr. Lewis Watkins..................
Dr. Clarence C. Robinson...........
Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

Literary..................Prof. William Graves...........
Ohio State University, Col. Ohio
Drawing and Penmanship...Ray O. Evans..................

Official Accompanist.....Laura Morgan..................

When the 1928 festival was held a new auditorium provided a warm and comfortable housing for the thousands who attended making a marked contrast to the tent which had been used for the previous year.


By the 1926 eisteddfod in Jackson the officers had spent $7500. for the rental of the tent and chairs. 84 With this expenditure and poor accommodation an effort was made to procure a permanent building that would properly house the thousands who came to witness the festival. Edwin Griffiths, the conductor of the 1927 eisteddfod, said it was a disgrace to Jackson County to try to entertain such a fine body of visitors in a tent. His remarks induced many to subscribe $50. and upwards for the beginning of a permanent home for this institution. There were organizations and individuals who were ready to add to this amount until it seemed possible to raise $30,000. immediately.

A building committee, comprised of A. L. Erwin, Enoch S. Thomas and E. B. Mathews, worked zealously after it was decided

83 Jackson Herald, September 29, 1928.
84 Ibid., October 12, 1926.
85 Ibid., October 8, 1927.
to build an eisteddfod auditorium. Bonds were sold redeemable at seven per cent and because the community cooperated in this enterprise the building became a reality. Over sixty people gave of their time to sell these bonds, for the building which cost approximately $26,000.

This building was made of brick with steel reinforcements and measures 100 x 160 feet in size. An arched roof gives a clear span throughout the building so that there is not a single column to obstruct the view of any one occupying the auditorium. "Its acoustics are extremely satisfactory and in the most remote places in the building whatever is said on the platform in reasonable pitch can be heard distinctly." The building is practically fire-proof inasmuch as the electric wiring is almost entirely removed from the wood and the flue holes are conducted through the brick wall so no fire can reach the roof from them. Another safe feature of the building is the fact that there are ten large double doors 8 x 8 feet in size and three small doors so that the largest audience could withdraw from the building in a very short time. The platform, 20 x 100 feet, is erected across one end and permits the reservation of twenty feet from each end of the platform for chairs. A row of windows encloses the entire upper part of the wall giving good light and splendid ventilation. The Buckeye Mill and Lumber Company had the contract for the erection of the building.

86Ibid, September 26, 1928.
The dedicatory services for the auditorium took place October 14, 1928. Dr. W. B. Taylor gave the address of dedication. At this service $2,000. was raised to pay for amplifiers. It is noteworthy that in the dedication the building was given for all purposes worthwhile and not for the eisteddfod exclusively although this auditorium is the only permanent home for any eisteddfod throughout the entire world.

7. The Eighth Annual Eisteddfod, 1929.

The Southern Ohio competitors were somewhat discouraged at the result of the 1929 eisteddfod. Lima again took the big prizes. They carried with them the $700. for the mixed chorus, $350. for the Ladies' chorus and a number of individual prizes. The male chorus was won by the Ohio State University Glee Club. The students appeared in dress suits with the "University colors crossing their bosom fronts". The adjudicator said the award was given to this group because the director had a choir that would give sufficient time to learn the test piece. Lima came in second and Jackson rated third. 87

Competition was large and keen at the 1929 festival. There were fourteen entries for the Soprano Solo and eight for the Tenor Solo. Seven ladies' choruses competed including Wellston, Lima, Dayton, Westerville, Ohio University Glee Club, Jackson Cecilian and Jeanette Chestnut Cecilian Chorus of Jackson. The second prize for the ladies' choruses was awarded to the Lima Chorus. The winners were the Ohio State University Glee Club first, Lima Chorus second, and the Jackson Cecilian third.

87 ibid. November 9, 1929.
chorus went to the Jeanette Chestnut Cecilian Chorus of Jackson and the Ohio University Glee Club was rated third. Four male choruses sang "Sylvia" and "Song of the Marching Men". These groups were Chillicothe, Ohio State University, Jackson and Lima. After the adjudication Charles Dawe of Cleveland directed the four choruses to the great enjoyment of the audience.

At the close of the 1929 eisteddfod all were looking forward to the National Eisteddfod which was to be held in Jackson the following year. Competition would be of a larger range and people were expected from various states. Planning was needed to make this event a success and the various committees were appointed far in advance of the festival.
VI. THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD AT JACKSON, OHIO, 1930.

The home office of the National Eisteddfod Association of America, Inc., located in Utica, New York, sent a formal certificate to the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association on December 28, 1928 granting permission to the local eisteddfod officials to hold the Grand National in 1930. This permission came from the request of the Jackson Eisteddfod leaders.

John E. Jones was president of the 1930 event and gave tirelessly of his efforts. Not only he but all eisteddfod enthusiasts of Jackson worked to sponsor this project. The following committees with their chairmen worked for many months prior to the event in October, 1930: Music, Dr. E. T. Dando, Wellston, Ohio; Literary, Dan T. Davis, Oak Hill, Ohio; Committee on Securing Competitions, Judge Benner Jones, Jackson, Ohio; Committee on Subscriptions, A. L. Ervin, Jackson; Committee on Gymanfa Ganu, Judge John G. Evans, Jackson; Committee on Transportation, S. E. Stephenson, Jackson; Committee on Decorations, Russell Benton, Jackson; and Chief Usher, D. Price Evans. The other officers for the 1930 event were: Isaac I. Parry, First Vice-president; Enoch S. Thomas, Second Vice-president; Frederick E. Jones, third Vice-president; Hollis Parry, Treasurer; and D. E. Howell, Secretary.88

Jackson took pride in holding the National and Mayor Davies requested every citizen to assist in making Jackson attractive to the visitors who came from thirty-eight states and sixty-eight cities.89 The city officials made arrange-

89 ibid.
ments for carrying away leaves and other debris to encourage this general fall cleaning.

The official program for the National which was held Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 23, 24 and 25, 1930, gave pictures of the adjudicators who were:

Music........Dr. Daniel Protheroe....
Dr. Lewis Watkins........
Prof. L. Powell Evans...

Literary....Dr. D. Jenkins Williams.
Judge David Warren Jones

Drawing.....Ray O. Evans............

Penmanship..Lucy B. Jones............

It also showed the pictures of the official pianist Laura B. Morgan who has served in this capacity since the inception of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association. Miss Anna Florence Schellenger also served as accompanist. In addition the members of the executive committee were shown including Benner Jones, Chairman, President of the 1923 eisteddfod; E. O. Roberts, President 1924 eisteddfod; Hon. Charles H. Jones, President 1926 eisteddfod; D. J. Herbert, President 1927 eisteddfod; John Stanley Morgan, President 1928 eisteddfod and Hon. D. W. Williams, President 1929 eisteddfod.

The Conductors, Hon. T. A. Jenkins, Hon. D. E. Morgan, and Dr. Davis Hugh Jones, were shown in large pictures. Other notables were also pictured. A memorial page was given to honor Edwin S. Griffiths who was the conductor of the 1927-1928 eisteddfods.

The large prizes offered at the National attracted many contestants and an audience of four thousand people. Among
the visitors were Governor Myers Y. Cooper; Senator Simeon D. Fess; Hon. D. E. Morgan of Cleveland; Joseph Jenkins, Ass't. to James J. Davis; and Lieutenant Governor W. G. Pickrel. Because all the prizes were donated the enterprise must have been a success financially. Mrs. Edwin Griffith of Cleveland donated the $1500 prize offered for the successful male voice party, and The Columbus Dispatch gave $500. Other donations from $300. downward were received.

The price of admission to the sessions ranged from fifty cents to $1.50 according to its importance in the series. Season reservations for the six sessions were sold to adults for $5.50. The first session was held Thursday evening, October 23, when Hon. T. A. Jenkins presided as conductor. $100. was given at this session to the Jackson High School Girls' Chorus. There were two competing choruses beside the Jackson group. They were Oak Hill and Ames-Berne. A gold medal was given to Prof. R. R. Thomas the successful director. The other competitive numbers for the Thursday evening session were for those of high school age. The Friday afternoon session with Dr. D. H. Jones as conductor opened at 1:30 P. M. This session was given for competition by children of school age. The grade school chorus competition was the last number and was won by the Oak Hill group with Mrs. Howard Schellenger the director. A gold medal was awarded to the director and $100 to this chorus as was given to the Jackson High School Girls' Chorus at the Thursday evening session.
On Friday evening greetings were given from the bards. The Secretary read a manuscript submitted by Mrs. J. Howell Rees of Utica, New York. E. O. Roberts of Jackson and William Lloyd Hughes of Cincinnati responded in Welsh.

The Piano Solo competition had three contestants; one from Wilkes Barre, Pa., one from Cleveland and the other Mrs. Catherine Dando of Wellston who was the successful contestant. The Oration, "The Spirit of the Pioneer", was won by Griff Thomas of New Castle, Pa., who also won the Impromptu speech on "The Future of our Country". The Ashland, Kentucky Band was successful over the Ravenswood, W. Va. group playing "Light Cavalry Overture" and won $100. An interesting competition was the song for those over 65 years of age. Llewellyn Jones, 71 years of age, was the successful contestant and sang "Face to Face".

The translation of "The Concord Hymn" attracted twenty entries. The prize was awarded to T. Genfronydd Jones of North Wales. The King Avenue M. E. Church Choir of Columbus, O. was successful over the Jackson M. E. group. This choral competition brought to a close the Friday evening session.

Hon. T. A. Jenkins served as conductor for the Saturday morning session. At this session Bert Leach of Portsmouth, a consistent winner at the Jackson Eisteddfod, was awarded the prize for the poem on "Peace" against twenty-five competitors. Three Welsh competitions appeared on this program. Ten entrants appeared for the Welsh Recitation on "Y Ffoadur" at the preliminaries and of this group three made the stage.
John T. Davies of Columbus was the final winner. Thirty-three translations from the Welsh to the English were given on "Duw Yn Noddfa". John P. Parry of Urbana, Illinois was the successful contestant. The best Welsh Poem on "Yr Hen-afol Fardd" (The Ancient Bard) was written by Idris B. Williams of North Wales. The other competitions at the Jackson National are given on pages 3-7.

The attraction of the Saturday morning program was the Ladies' Chorus competition when seven choruses sang:
The award was given to the Lima Ladies' group over the Jackson Cecilian Chorus, Ohio University Glee Club, Utica Ladies' Chorus, The Mother Singers of Dayton and the Jeanette Chestnut Cecilian Choir. The prize was $600. The adjudicators declared the Jackson Cecilian Choir ranked second in this competition. The ladies' choral competition extended until 1:30 P. M. when the afternoon session was scheduled. Because of this fact the afternoon session was delayed until 3:00 P. M.

Meals were served in various churches in Jackson between sessions to accommodate the large audience. This practice is continued and affords a reunion for friends.

Miss Gertrude Morgan sang "Cwm Rhondda" to open the Saturday afternoon meeting when Hon. D. E. Morgan officiated as conductor. W. L. Hughes responded for the bards. There were five entrants for the Essay competition on "The Effect of Mechanical Reproduction on the Art of Music". Dr. D. E. Jones, Music Critic of the Scranton, Pa. Schools, wrote the winning paper.
Fourteen contestants appeared in the preliminaries for the Tenor Solo to sing "The Song of Life". Trinett Brown of Lima was successful. The Soprano and Alto Duet was a contest between Lima singers and Mrs. Dorothy Schultz and Miss Effie Hunt were victorious.

A Piano, Violin and Cello Trio to play "Deux Arabesques" was won by three ladies of the College of Music of Cincinnati. Adrienne Wright, Martha Culp and Catherine Dando were the entrants in this interesting and pleasing rendition.

The Saturday afternoon session came to a close when the Mixed Chorus prize was awarded to the Lima, Ohio group who were given $1500. The auditorium was filled to capacity to hear this number and many stood in the aisles. The other groups competing were Ohio State University and the Lancaster Mixed Choruses.

The final session of the eisteddfod began at eight o'clock. The first number was won by Hadyn Evans of Columbus for the Baritone or Bass Solo. An interesting competition was the drawing of Eben Jones, pioneer of Jackson County and President of the 1897 eisteddfod. Twelve drawings were submitted and Vaughn Jones of Portsmouth was successful. The grand competition was the Male Chorus competition when eight male choruses sang Prothoroe's "Drontheim" (King Olaf's Christmas) and "O Bone Jesu" unaccompanied. The following choruses and conductors appeared:

Orpheus Male Chorus, Wilkes Barre, Pa..............
John Jones Owens, Director.

Cleveland Male Chorus.................................
William Hughes, Director...

London, Ontario (Canada) Male Chorus..............
George Lethridge, Director.
Jackson County Male Chorus
R. R. Thomas, Director.

Lima Harmonica Male Chorus
Rolland Mikesell, Director.

Orpheus Male Chorus, Cleveland, Ohio
Charles E. Dawe, Director.

Baltimore and Ohio Glee Club, Baltimore, Md.
George Castell, Director.

There were 730 men in the eight choruses, and it is said the excitement of the crowd witnessing this contest was "breath taking". The Orpheus Chorus of Cleveland was successful and won the $1500 award. They were a group of wide eisteddfod experience having competed successfully in Wales in 1926. With the close of this number the Grand National came to a close.

After the Eisteddfod a Gymanfa Ganu was held Sunday, October 26, at the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Auditorium with Dr. Protheroe leading the singing. It was held for two sessions when such favorites as "Gwm Rhondda" and "Aberystrwyth" were sung. A program containing thirty-two Welsh and English hymns was distributed to the large audience. It was a fitting close to the greatest musical event in the history of the Jackson, Ohio Eisteddfod.
VII. THE JACKSON, OHIO EISTEDDFODS SINCE THE GRAND NATIONAL
1. The Eisteddfod of 1931.
After the Grand National in 1930, Jackson continued to hold the local eisteddfods which have been in marked contrast to the National event. This contrast was to be expected but none could anticipate the economic crisis that was to threaten the existence of many cultural institutions and cause a decline in the Jackson Eisteddfod. Because the large prizes at the 1930 event were won by groups outside of Southern Ohio, the local officers faced a dilemma in 1931. They realized if they opened the competition to all, the large prize money again might go "abroad". Inasmuch as the prize money is usually donated by business people of Southern Ohio they could not justify such a move in the light of the economic situation of Jackson County. On the other hand, if they put a restriction on the competitors the eisteddfod would fail to maintain the prestige of which they were proud. However such a move would encourage competitors from Southern Ohio to train for their institution. The latter decision was made and all contestants were required to live within one hundred (Air Line) miles of Jackson, Ohio.

The Tenth Annual was held in four sessions, the first on Thursday night, November 5 when Dr. Jenkins Williams of Columbus, O. was conductor. Three sessions were held on Friday when Rev. Samuel Whilding and Thomas A. Jenkins presided. The admission charge for these sessions were as follows: Thursday night 50 cents; Friday morning 25 cents; Friday afternoon 75 cents; and Friday night $1.00. Reservation
for season tickets were sold to adults for $2.75 and to children for $1.25. "Though the audience was smaller than at previous events, order was a marked characteristic."

Much of the credit for the smooth running of the eisteddfod was due to the General Secretary, David E. Howell. 90

The adjudicators for the 1931 eisteddfod for the most part were school men: Dr. Hollis Dann of New York University and Professor Samuel J. Evans judged for music; Professor William Graves of the Department of English of Ohio State University served as literary adjudicator while Professor Orin W. Davis of the Jackson County Schools was penmanship adjudicator. Eamon Edwards of Akron, Ohio made the judgment on the drawings. "Dr. Dann as musical adjudicator made a fine impression. His decisions, as well as those of his associate, were fair. His suggestions were constructive and it was a real education to sit under his helpful advice."

The 1931 eisteddfod attracted many competitors of all ages. At the Thursday evening session all the entrants for the individual prizes had passed a preliminary competition because of the large number of entrants. Ten entries were received for the Solo for Girls twelve to fifteen years of age. Ten tried for the Recitation for Boys or Girls between twelve and eighteen years of age. Fourteen appeared in the preliminary for the Piano Solo for those between twelve and fifteen years, and six appeared for the Solo for Ladies fifteen to eighteen years. Seven high school choruses

90 Jackson Herald, November 7, 1931.  
91 Ibid.
competed at the Thursday evening session singing "The Brook". Jackson was the successful choir over Wellston, Portsmouth, Coalton, Ashland, Kentucky, Jackson, Oak Hill and Ames-Burns. Three high school bands played "The Gypsy Festival" overture with Portsmouth being successful over Ashland and the Southeastern Ohio Band.

The Friday morning session was well attended. Seventeen entries were received for the Solo for Girls under twelve years. Of course only three made the stage. For the Piano Solo twenty-three appeared in the preliminary. Patricia Cooperrider of Worthington, Ohio was successful over this large group. The Recitation "Practice Tune" attracted fifteen contestants. This number gave "one of the best recitation competitions ever held from the Bisteddfod platform when three little girls read Edgar Guest's little childish poem". Maxine Kent was the successful contestant. The session came to a close with the Grade School Chorus competition when five choruses appeared. Jackson won over Coalton, Portsmouth, Oak Hill and Wellston. The Wellston group was given Honorable Mention.

Two Columbus, Ohio church choirs competed with the King Avenue M. E. group being successful over the Northminster Presbyterian Church Choir. Five entries on the translation of "Arylwydd y Llwedd" was won by T. W. Jones, Columbus, O. At the Friday evening session three Male Choruses sang "Cambria's Song of Freedom". Jackson was successful over
Ohio State Glee Club and the Portsmouth Choir. The college group were given second rating. "The Lost Chord" was sung by the mixed choruses. The Ohio State University Choir was successful over the King Avenue M. E. Choir and the Jackson Choir.

Dr. Dann was much impressed with the five ladies' choirs that had competed at the Friday afternoon session. He stated that the audience had heard some of the best singing by ladies' voices that he had ever heard. "There was not a weak choir in the five. The one that would rank fifth would be entitled to first in the average competition." He said he marvelled that five so splendid choirs could be assembled within a radius of one hundred miles.

The 1931 eisteddfod had more competitors from Columbus, Ohio than had appeared previously and the large competition from Southern Ohio gave an interesting and successful eisteddfod.

2. The 1932 Eisteddfod.

The committees for the Eleventh Annual Eisteddfod worked hard to present the eisteddfod in 1932. Economic conditions were worse than the previous year and many could not afford to attend. The price of admission was further reduced to attract as large an audience as possible. 2,000 persons attended the four sessions however and repaid those who had worked so hard to continue the institution.

ibid.
Contrary to the decision in 1931 the competition was open to all. It was necessary to get the support of the eisteddfod enthusiasts throughout the State to maintain the eisteddfod during those trying times. It meant that the large prizes left the southern part of the State. In fact Lima's entrants were successful in the following competitions: Alto Solo, Tenor Solo, Soprano-Alto Duet, Tenor and Bass Duet and the Mixed Chorus. Jackson won the high School Chorus, Grade School Chorus and divided the Ladies' Chorus with the Lima group.

A fitting memorial was given in the official program to hon. Daniel Webster Williams. He was one of the founders of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association and had been President of the 1929 Eisteddfod.

At the end of the 1932 eisteddfod the question uppermost in the minds of the officials and audience was whether or not an eisteddfod would be held the following year.


The Jackson Eisteddfod officials decided not to hold an eisteddfod in 1933. A large audience could not be expected from the residents of Southern Ohio to hear competition restricted. Neither could business men justify donating large awards for groups who would come by automobile in time for the eisteddfod and leave immediately thereafter with the large prize money. Jackson and other Southern Ohio towns
were in the throes of the economic depression. Many children were going to school without breakfast. The schools were facing the possibility of closing and teachers waited for their salaries. The postponement of the Eisteddfod was a disappointment to many and because of the earnest desire of most of the Jackson eisteddfod enthusiasts to carry on this institution a successful effort was made to hold the twelfth Annual in April, 1934. This change of time was suggested in order that the school children would be able to practice longer for the eisteddfod. The cold weather also seemed a more fitting time for the adults to practice. The experiment proved helpful and a successful eisteddfod was held April 19-20, 1934.

The adjudicators for the 1934 eisteddfod were:

Music...................Dr. Hollis Dann
Dr. John B. Thomas

Literary..................Professor William Graves

Penmanship..............Omin W. Davis

Competition for the 1934 eisteddfod was not large. The Jackson high School Chorus was successful over their only other contestant--Oak Hill. The Ashland, Kentucky Band was successful over Portsmouth. For the close of the High School session the audience sang "Cwm Rhondda" accompanied by the combined bands under the direction of Henri Schnable of Portsmouth. Jackson was successful in the Grade School Chorus competition over Oak Hill and divided the Ladies' Chorus with the Lima singers. The Southern Ohio competitors lost other prizes; Elizabeth Swartz was the successful

93Jackson Herald, December 13, 1932.
contestant of the twenty who entered the Short Story competition. The Lima entrants were successful in winning the following numbers: Mixed Quartette, Male Quartette, Mixed Chorus, Soprano and Alto Duet, Alto Solo and Tenor Solo. The Male Chorus was won by the Hilltop Business men's Chorus of Columbus, Ohio.

The Twelfth Annual program contained a memorial to Dr. Daniel Protheroe who had passed away shortly before the eisteddfod. He had been the adjudicator at the Jackson Eisteddfod in 1897, 1922, 1923, 1926, 1927 and 1930. Protheroe's outstanding adjudications set a high standard for his successors.

Lima continued to take the major awards at the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Annual Eisteddfods, although the Jackson Ladies' Chorus in 1936 gave them very good competition. This group of Jackson singers have more training, it is said, than any other chorus in the County though they do not meet regularly.94

At the 1936 eisteddfod Prof. R. R. Thomas, who had directed the previous Jackson choruses, was unable to direct his groups due to illness, although he was present at the eisteddfod sessions. The Jackson Ladies' Chorus, Boys High School Chorus and Rotary Chorus were led by Merrill Davis. The Boys' High School Chorus and the Rotary singers were successful contestants. The Jackson High School Girls' Chorus was successfully directed by Miss Gravell. Robert Thorson, music teacher in the Southern district of the County successfully directed the Oak Hill Grade School Chorus.

Oak Hill Press, November 18, 1936.
An officer who had worked tirelessly for the success of all the eisteddfods since the inception of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association was greatly missed. His son assisted Benner Jones, II, who was appointed to take the place left vacant by the General Secretary, D. E. Howell.

The adjudicators for the 1936 event were:

Music.......................Dr. Lewis Watkins,............
Philadelphia, Pa...........
W. E. Morgan................
Pittsburgh, Pa..............
Literary....................Rev. Irvine Dungan, Troy, O.
Dramatics....................Miss Marian B. Hathaway...
Columbus, Ohio.............
Welsh Recitation............John T. Davis, Col. Ohio

Official Accompanist..........Laura Morgan.............

An outstanding competition of the 1936 eisteddfod was the musical reading won by Gordon Shaw of Lima, Ohio reciting "The Americans Come".

A marked lack of enthusiasm was apparent at the evening session of the 1936 eisteddfod. This may have been because the program was too long as suggested by the Oak Hill Press or because the Lima entrants were apparent winners from the start. For so many years the prizes have been won by the same people. "The crowd began leaving by ones and twos as early as 9:30 and by twelve the auditorium was less than half full."95 It has been suggested that the festival coming once a year does not appeal as strong as one just held occasionally.96 Evidently this pessimism is not shared by the Jackson Eisteddfod Officials who have announced that the Fifteenth Annual Eisteddfod will be held in Jackson November 4 and 5, 1937.

95 November 18, 1936.
96 Ibid.
4. The **Jackson, Ohio School Eisteddfod**

The public schools of Jackson, Ohio carry on an annual school eisteddfod. This institution was originated with Professor R. R. Thomas after he became Supervisor of Public School Music of Jackson. The first of these eisteddfods was held in 1924 and since that time it has been effective and a benefit to those competing at the larger eisteddfod of the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association.

All competitors are arranged so that each grade in the public schools is in a class of its own. Speaking of the Fifth Annual School Eisteddfod held in May, 1928 the editorial of the **Jackson Herald** said, "No one who has attended these contests from year to year can disagree with Dr. Dando in the verdict that so far as the City of Jackson is concerned the School Eisteddfod is doing more for the promotion of musical atmosphere than the big annual meeting held in the fall. The school contests are training the children and they are growing into citizens that will in the main live here in Jackson and they are developing a love and a power of expression in music which will live on for another generation at least. This does not underrate the Southern Ohio Eisteddfods but it means that while their influence is spread out over a large section, largely among adults, the school meets are local and reach the little folk. It enables more than 1200 children to take part."97

97May 5, 1928.
This institution is carried on by some of the rural schools of Jackson County and at Wellston, Ohio the School Eisteddfod has been held.

Dr. Dando has acted in the capacity of adjudicator for the Jackson School Eisteddfods for many years without compensation. It is said he does this simply because of his abiding conviction that the encouragement of music is a most helpful incentive to the raising of mankind to a higher appreciation of the finer things in life hence an elevation of the human race. "He has for a quarter of a century been a leader in everything musical in Jackson County and his interest does not falter."

The awards for the School Eisteddfod are not in the form of money. Ribbons, medals and banners have been given and it is said that many enjoy attending the School Eisteddfod with its youthful enthusiasm rather than the older institution. Because the schools of Jackson sponsor such an institution students are trained for public participation at a young age and the choruses which will be developed from these singers will doubtless help perpetuate the eisteddfod in Jackson County for many years.

To a Welshman the mere mention of an eisteddfod carries him back to former ties with folk or homeland. Because of their intense love for music the Welsh have presented America with the Eisteddfod and Gymanfa Ganu and America is richer today because of so rich a heritage in cultural things. The Eisteddfod, as an institution, personifies the striving

98bid.
toward perfection by a people. Since early times it has been recognized and used for political, social and religious ends. The Eisteddfod fosters the democratic ideal in that coal miners and bankers have stood side by side blending their voices or talents to win the coveted prize or honor. And finally the Eisteddfod is valuable and influential in motivating and crystallizing community spirit. Like the Chautauqua it has done much to arouse an appreciation for the better things of life.

Jackson, a town of 7,000 situated in the Ohio foothills, has demonstrated time and time again that it is possible to achieve success in its Eisteddfod because its citizenry have remained steadfast in their devotion to this Welsh institution.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Newspapers

Columbus Sunday Dispatch

Jackson Herald
June 2, 1900; January 2, 1907; January 3, 1912;
June 1, 1922; October 21, 1922; October 13, 1923;
October 12, 1926; October 8, 1927; September 26, 1928;
September 29, 1928; November 9, 1929; Eisteddfod Edition
(October 25, 1930); November 7, 1931; December 13, 1932.

Jackson Standard
January 7, 1875; October 14, 1875; May 1, 1878;
June 12, 1875; May 1, 1879; June 12, 1879;
January 8, 1885; March 25, 1886; July 8, 1886;
March 24, 1897; October 16, 1897.

Jackson Standard Journal
October 29, 1913.

Jackson Sun Journal
October 5, 1926.

Oak Hill Press
November 18, 1936.

2. Local Histories

Averill, James P., Historical Hand Atlas..., H. H. Hardesty
& Co., Chicago and Toledo, 1882.

Bartlow, Bert S. et al., Centennial History of Butler County,
Ohio...B. P. Bowen & Co., 1905.

Brister, E. M. F., Centennial History of the City of Newark
and Licking County, Ohio, I, The S. J. Clarke Publishing
Co., Chicago-Columbus, 1909.

Lytle, James R., 20th Century History of Delaware County, Ohio
and Representative Citizens, Biographical Publishing Co.,
Chicago, Illinois, 1908.

Miller, Charles C., History of Allen County, Ohio and Represen-
tative Citizens, Richmond and Arnold, Chicago, Illinois,
1906.

A Portrait and Biographical Record of Allen and Van Wert
Counties, Ohio Containing Biographical Sketches of Many
Prominent and Representative Citizens, A. W. Bowen & Co.,
1896.

History of Lower Scioto Valley, Ohio...Inter-State Publishing
Co., Chicago, 1884.

3. Special Monographs

Evans, Virgil, The Family Tree of John Jones (Tirbach) Elder
or Patriarch of the Welsh Settlement of Jackson and Gallia
..., Columbus, Ohio, MOMXXIX.

Williams, Daniel Jenkins, The Welsh of Columbus, Ohio a Study in
Adaptation and Assimilation, Published by the Author,
Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 1913.

93
4. Publication of Learned Society

Jones, William Harvey, "Welsh Settlements in Ohio", Ohio Archaeological and Historical Publications, XVI, 1907.

5. Miscellaneous

Official Programs of the Eisteddfod by the Southern Ohio Eisteddfod Association, 1922-