

# — hidden — HISTORY

## SWEETLY SINGING SONGS OF BLOOD (AND POISON)

By Amy Ensley

**A**t various times over the years, students at Wilson have printed collections of the songs sung at graduation, sporting events and Step-Sing. Publications have ranged from a beautiful little book of *Wilson Lyrics*, circa 1895, to tiny Evens and Odds booklets and a professionally printed *College Songs* compilation complete with campus photographs, circa 1925.

The *College Songs* book comes with a disclaimer in the preface, “Not all of these songs were approved by the college board of censors, but in order that the book might be complete we have included with the others, those not approved. A number of the songs do not represent the best work that can be done by Wilson students, but they have gained merit by constant usage.”

The songs include odes to the beauty of the campus:

*The Conococheague comes dancing while she wears her silver crown,  
But when she comes to college she assumes her azure gown.*

And oaths of loyalty:

*Wilson, thy daughters loyal,  
With earnest hearts and true  
Give to thee homage royal  
Honored each year anew  
And we will be faithful ever  
To the Silver and the Blue.*

But in addition to the sweet songs about friendship and honor, there are these little gems of Odds and Evens rivalry that come as a

surprise, causing us to ponder when we look at the old photographs of prim young women in their long skirts and Gibson girl hairdos:

*Blood on the campus, blood on the ground,  
There's a great big puddle of blood all around  
Pity the Odds—bloody and dead  
Where a great big Even bashed in their heads!*

And not to be outdone:

*The Odds are pirates, Captain Kidd's own pirates;  
We leave a trail of blood where e're we go;  
We take delight in picking a fight,  
We hit Evens on the head,  
Until they're dead, clear dead.*

*As we are told our pep is being bold,*

*We put poison in the Evens shredded wheat.*

*We are a chip off the Odds pine tree;*

*We eat...grrr...Evens up.*

Makes the Odds and Evens chants contained in today's official College Blue Book pale by comparison!

For more information on any of Wilson's traditions, please contact the C. Elizabeth Boyd '33 Archives at [hankeycenter@wilson.edu](mailto:hankeycenter@wilson.edu) or 717-262-2049.

