

William Molyneux



No Picture Available

Born: 1502 Sefton, ENG

Married: Jane Rugge

Died: 1568 Sefton ENG

Parents: Thomas Molyneux & Anna Dutton



Sir William Molyneux, Knight Banneret, distinguished himself at the battle of **Flodden Field**, fought 9 September 1513, in which engagement he, with Sir Edward Stanley, commanded the rear. It is generally conceded that the Lancashire archers had a chief share in the victory. Sir William took with his own hands two standards, one being that of the Earl of Huntley, and which are still preserved in the family of the Earls of Sefton. King **Henry VIII** wrote the following congratulatory letter to both Sir Edward Stanley and **Sir William Molyneux** upon the occasion:

"Right Trusty and Well-beloved,—We greet you well, and understand by the Report of our right trusty Cousin and Counsellor, the Duke of Norfolk, what acceptable Service, you amongst others, did us by your valiant Towardness, in the Assistance of our said Cousin, against our Enemy, the King of Scots; and how courageously you, as a very hearty loving Servant, acquitted for the overthrow of the said late King, and distressing of his Malice and Power, to our great Honour, and the advancing of your no little Fame and Praise, for which we have good Cause to favour and thank you; and so we full heartily do; and assured you may be, that we shall in such effectual wise remember your said Service, in any your reasonable Pursuits, as you shall have Cause to think the same right well employed, to our Comfort and Weal hereafter. Given under our sygnet, at our Castle at Windsor, the seventeenth Day of November, and fifth Year of our Reign."

In the *"Memoirs of the House of Stanley,"* published in 1783, is the following quaint panegyric upon **Sir William Molyneux**: "This most valiant and worthy Gentleman appeared like the North Star in its Glory. He was a man of great command in Lancashire, the Image of whose Mind was as peculiar, as the beautiful Portrait of his Body; nobly forgiving his Enemies, if reconcileable, and refusing ignobly to be revenged upon them, if obstinate. This noble nature, advanced by his Heroic Education, made acceptable at Court, as well as in the Country, where his Hospitality was renowned, his Equity and Prudence beloved, and his Interest large and commanding. In him was seen the idea of the true English Gentleman. In favour at Court, in Repute in the Country, at once loved and feared. His usual saying was, 'That he never saw fear, but in the backs of his Enemies.' In a word, he lived in all Capacities, a public Good, and died a Common Loss."

Sir William Molyneux died in **1548**, and was buried in the chancel of the church at Sefton, beneath a flat marble, with the following translated inscription: "Sir William Molineux, Knt., Lord of the Manor of Sefton, who was sent three times against the Scots by Henry the Eighth of England. In war he fought most courageously, and at Flodden with his own hands took two of the Scottish Banners in spite of all their resistance. In peace he was the friend of all mankind, assisting with his counsel those who wanted advice, and with his purse those who wanted money. He had two wives. The first, **Jane**, only daughter and heiress of **Sir Richard Rugge, Knt.**, of the County of Salop, by who he had three children, **William, Thomas** and **Ann**. After a life of sixty-five years, he was laid here with his ancestors, in July, 1548, in the hope of the Resurrection." Kuerdon mentions that Sir William built a "fayre chappel" at Euxton, of which manor he was the lord.

In 15th Henry VIII, James Anderton of Euxton settled the issues of his lands in Breth, Lydiat, and Whittle, towards paying his debts, &c., then to W. Molineux and Henry Banestre of Banc, and their heirs, to found three "chantryres" with three priests, to pray for the souls of him, and Agnes, his wife, one in the parish church of Leyland, one in Eccleston, and one in the chapel of Euxton.

Information from online research at: Ancestry.com