

Thomas Molineux, 441, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name Variations: Molyneux, Molinieaux

Baptism	28 April 1828, Wigan, Lancashire
Parents	Edward Molineux and Sarah Halliday
Parent's marriage	31 August 1823, Wigan
Siblings	Richard (1823), John (1825), William (1831), James (1833), Ellen (1839-1839), Elizabeth (1841-1843), Peter (1843), Nathan (1844)

Edward Molineux and Sarah Halliday, both of Wigan parish, were married by Banns on 31 August 1823. Both made their marks.

They had a daughter, born and died before 1839, and not baptised. The church register says Ellen, who died of measles, is the 2nd daughter and Elizabeth, who died of teething, is the 3rd daughter.

Although the abode for all the baptisms of the children is Standishgate, the family lived in Rylance Row off Standishgate.

Photo taken in 1900 before demolition.



On the 1841 census, Rylance Row, Wigan. ¹

Edward Moleneaux, 40, coal miner; Sarah 35; Richard 15; John 13; Thomas 11; William 8; James 6; Elizabeth 3 months.

Wigan Borough Sessions, 17 July 1843.

John Molyneux, 16, and Thomas Molyneux, 13, who can't read or write, were charged with stealing 8s from Ellen Hesketh. John was found not guilty, and Thomas was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and once whipped. ²

Then in 1846, Thomas Molyneux, 17, can't read or write, and William Hilton, 17, can read, were charged with having at Ince-in-Mackerfield, stolen two colliers' picks, the property of Thomas Croston; one colliers' pick, the property of James Hitchen; and one colliers' pick, the property of Thomas Melling.

At the Kirkdale General Sessions, 15 July 1846.

Thomas Molyneux, 17, who can't read or write, and William Hilton, 17, convicted of larceny, were sentenced to three months' imprisonment. ³

His luck ran out in 1848.

Between the hours of twelve and two on Tuesday morning (30 April 1848), the corn mill of Mr Fouracre, of Winstanley, was entered, and two bags of flour stolen therefrom. A person named James Gorner was apprehended on the same day and committed for trial at Kirkdale sessions.

¹ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/523/12

² Liverpool Mercury, 21 July 1843, p8; TNA, HO27/70, p61

³ TNA, HO27/79, p121; PCOM2/321

Another man, named Thomas Molyneux, was also committed on the same charge yesterday afternoon (3 March).⁴

The Lancashire Court records give more details:

Thomas Molyneux, 18, can't read or write, having at Winstanley, feloniously stolen one bag and 143 lbs weight of flour, the property of Samuel Alfred Karr; and one gun, the property of Samuel Fouracre. James Gorner, 24, who can't read or write, was tried separately for feloniously stealing two bags and a quantity of flour, the property of Samuel Alfred Karr, at Winstanley.⁵

At the Lancashire County General Sessions at Kirkdale on 24 April 1848, Thomas was sentenced to 7 years' transportation, and James Gorner to 3 months' imprisonment.

The Prosecution costs were £13. 15. 4.⁶

The Prison Registers show that Thomas Molyneux, 18, charged with stealing in a dwelling house, was convicted on 24 April 1848 at Kirkdale and sentenced to 7 years. He was born in Wigan, had light brown hair, blue eyes, Protestant, fresh complexion, oval face, stout, single, 5'4½", collier, scar on middle finger left hand, large scar left arm, scar little finger right hand, scar on stomach, blue mark side of right eye, his father is Edward, a collier, lived at Wigan, Lancashire.

Thomas's previous convictions were Wigan Sessions, July 1843, 1 month and whipped; Kirkdale Sessions, July 1846, 3 months.

He was received at Wakefield Prison on 17 August 1849 from Kirkdale Prison, and then transferred to the *York* hulk at Gosport on 13 August 1850. Thomas boarded the *Pyrenees* on 10 March 1851 for Western Australia.⁷

While in prison, Thomas petitioned twice for a mitigation of sentence. The first was received on 21 March 1849.

To the Right Honble Sir George Grey, Bart, Secretary of State, Home Dept, Whitehall, London.

The Petition of Thomas Molyneux, a prisoner in Kirkdale Gaol under Sentence of Seven years transportation, having pleaded Guilty at the Sessions held at Kirkdale April 1848 (along with James Gorner) to stealing a quantity of flour, one fowling piece and powder flask, the property of one James Shuttleworth.⁸

Your Petitioner humbly hopes by stating the real facts which led to the committal of his crime that they will be received in a favourable light, and lead to a mitigation of his sentence passed upon him. 1st then - Your Petitioner is by trade a Coal miner, and when in full employ can earn not more than 12/- per week. Your petitioner had been out of work for Three Months prior to his unfortunate affair.

Your Petitioner diligently sought employment in various parts but without the least success, he was consequently driven to want and starvation.

2nd. In this deplorable condition your Petitioner had the misfortune to become acquainted with the prisoner Gorner, and through his instigation and a female with whom he (Gorner) cohabited, your petitioner was tempted to take a part in this robbery which your petitioner honestly states was arranged before he met, or was acquainted with Gorner.

3rd. The prisoner Gorner was sentenced only to Three months imprisonment.

Your Petitioner humbly trusts the temptation to which he was exposed and his severely distressed condition will have some weight in lessening his severe sentence and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Kirkdale Gaol, 19 March 1849.

Petition for a reduction in his sentence was denied.

⁴ Preston Press, Saturday 4 March 1848, p8

⁵ TNA, PCOM2/322

⁶ Lancashire, England, Quarter Session Records and Petitions, QSP 3316/1-152; TNA, HO 27/85

⁷ TNA, PCOM2/136, PCOM2/322, HO23/14

⁸ Fowling piece is a shotgun; different owner of the gun to the Court records.

A second Petition was received on 16 January 1851 from the *York* hulk. He now begged to stay in England and finish his sentence. The petition was denied.⁹

Upon arrival in Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, Thomas was assigned number 441, issued a Ticket of Leave, and a physical description was recorded.

441. Thomas Molineux, 23, 5'5½", light brown hair, light hazel eyes, round face, fair complexion, mark under right eye, scar on back neck and both shins, collier, single.¹⁰

Superintendent's Journal shows:

4 July 1851. The following prisoners will be received from the ship *Pyrenees* and located in division 3 of the Prison, including 441. Thos Molineux.

7 July 1851. The following men holding passes will be detached from the Establishment and proceed to Mount Eliza Station on 10 July. The men were assigned to a Mess that consisted of a boatswain and usually six other men. Mess No. 2 included a boatswain and seven men, including 441. Thos. Molineux.¹¹

The newspaper reported the Ticket-Of-Leave-Men at Mount Eliza Station, on 11 July 1851: 441 Thomas Molineux, Miner.¹²

Perth District Ticket of Leave Registers & Occurrence Books:

Thomas Molineux, 441, 23 years old, *Pyrenees*, was contracted to James Dyson for 12 months from 2 August 1851. His wages were £1.10 per mensem (month) for the first six months and £2 per mensem for the residue by written contract.

On 27 August 1851, he left Dyson's service. He reported himself and was returned on 2 September to Dyson's service. On 8 September, he was returned to Mill Depot [Mt Eliza Depot] and then sent to the Establishment at Fremantle on 15 September 1851.¹³

On 5 March 1852, 441 T. Molyneux was sent to Freshwater Bay but was received back at the Prison on 11 March.

Then, on 16 June 1852, he was discharged to North Fremantle Station; however, an entry for the following day states that he was retained at the prison.

Thomas Molineaux was then discharged to Toodyay on 25 June 1852.¹⁴

[Note: he does not appear on the Toodyay database]

A Conditional Pardon was granted in April 1854. What happened to Thomas after this date is unknown.

His family in England

1851 census, 14 Rylance Row, Wigan.

Edward Molineux, 59, coal miner; Sarah 49; Richard 27, coal miner; William 20, Coal miner; Peter 9, scholar; Nathan 6, scholar, all born in Wigan.¹⁵

⁹ TNA, HO18/242

¹⁰ SROWA, Acc 128/32

¹¹ SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, SO1-So3, p51, p53

¹² The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 18 July 1851, p2

¹³ SROWA, Cons 1386 /1

¹⁴ SROWA, Receipts and Discharges, 1855 - 1859 (Rd1 - Rd2)

¹⁵ TNA, HO107/2199