

William Julian Skrine More-Molyneux

Headstone number 25 with two small footstones in the Compton churchyard survey:

*In memory of William Julian Skrine
son of
George and Anne Spurstow
More Molyneux
Who died in the wreck
Of HMS Avenger
December 20 1847 Aged 14 years
Also of Adelaide his sister
Who died April 8 1839
Aged 8 years
And lies buried here
As the sufferings of Christ abound in us
So also our consolation aboundeth by Christ
Cor 1 Chap 5*

William was the son of the rector of Compton, George More Molyneux and his wife Anne. George was the brother of James More Molyneux of Loseley, who was patron of the living of Compton and who appointed his brother as rector. He held that position for almost fifty years (1823-1872).

William served on HMS Avenger which, with its combination of sail and steam, was at the forefront of modern warship design. He was probably a Boy First Class, a rating reserved for those who were training to be officers, usually young gentleman of well-to-do families.

Sadly, his naval career was cut short when the Avenger foundered on rocks near Malta in December 1847. Of the 256 crew on board, only nine survived. William was just fourteen years old.



The loss of Her Majesty's Steam Frigate Avenger 1847