



(Royal Green Jacket Museum: www.rgj.museum.co.uk)

LOCAL WATERLOO HERO

As the country prepares for the Battle of Waterloo Bi-centenary in June, Bath can celebrate its own veteran. Captain Edward Gore Langton was a member of the of the 52nd (Oxfordshire) Light Infantry Regiment of Foot, noted for its assault on Napoleon's Imperial Guard at the battle which decided the fate of Europe

He was born on December 15th, 1788, the second son of the wealthy local M.P. Colonel William Gore Langton and his wife, Bridget. He grew up at Newton Park, the Georgian country house which is now home to Bath Spa University – and attended the pretty local church of Holy Trinity, Newton St. Loe.

In 1805, aged sixteen, he joined the 52nd Light Infantry regiment. Swiftly promoted from Ensign to Lieutenant, he reached Captaincy, in May 1812. His Regiment, the first to convert to Light Infantry, was known as an elite corps. Dashing and disciplined in red jackets with buff facings, buff or grey buckskins and stovepipe shakos, they were armed with muskets. Fighting in traditional line formations, skirmishes and fortress assault and using buglers for field orders they took part in Wellington's Peninsular Campaign. Edward was present at the many of its great battles – including Corunna, Fuentes D'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo and Salamanca.

In 1815, under the command of Sir John Colborne, the 52nd took part at Waterloo. It was later said of them that they were "never surpassed in arms since arms were borne by men.....". Awarded the Waterloo Medal (example of this can be seen at Dyrham) and the War Medal with four clasps.

Edward married Ann Richards in Bristol in 1838. They settled at Stapleton Park, North Bristol, with his unmarried sister Frances. He died in 1860, aged 71.

He has two local memorials. There is an obelisk in Holy Trinity Churchyard, and Memorial tablet and Stained glass window at Holy Trinity Church Stapleton, Bristol.

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