

**Lt.-Col. Richard FitzGerald<sup>i</sup>** b. 1774, d. 18 June 1815 Lt.-Col. Richard FitzGerald was born in 1774. He married Georgiana Isabella d'Aguilari<sup>iii</sup>, daughter of Baron Ephraim López Pereira d'Aguilar and Sarah Mendez da Costaiv, on 16 February 1797. He died on 18 June 1815 at Waterloo, Belgium, killed in action. He was commissioned in 1795 with the rank of Ensign, in the service of the Colonel Podmore's Regiment. He gained the rank of Lieutenant in 1796 in the service of the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot. He gained the rank of Captain in 1797 in the service of the 68th (Durham) Regiment of Foot. He gained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the service of the 2nd Life Guards. He gained the rank of Brevet Major in 1812. He fought in the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815.



Lt Col Richard FitzGerald's monument in St Marylebone Parish Church. The monument was erected by his widow who was buried in the parish church in which she married FitzGerald.

## Biographia Hibernica

A Biographical Dictionary of the Worthies of England from the earliest period to the present time.

Written and compiled by Richard Ryan.

In Two Volumes.

**Volume II**

London:

John Warren, Old Bond Street,

M.N. Mahon; R. Milliken; and Hodges & McArthur, Dublin.

MDCCCXXI

**Richard Fitzgerald** was a brevet lieutenant-colonel, and served as captain of the second regiment of life guards in the decisive battle in Spain, at Thoulouse, and Waterloo. He was the fourth and only surviving son of an ancient and respectable family in Ireland. He commenced his military career about the twenty-second year of his age, by entering as an ensign in the 34<sup>th</sup> regiment of foot, in which corps he was promoted to a lieutenancy.

In the year 1797, he raised himself to be a captain, by purchasing into the 6<sup>th</sup>, in which he served in Ireland, during the commotions of 1799, after which he retired upon half-pay. During the short peace of Amiens, he accompanied his family to France, where he soon heard the rumour of a new war. He then forwarded a memorial to his royal highness the commander-in-chief, and was in consequence appointed to the 31<sup>st</sup>. He was about to re-join this corps, when he was detained with other British subjects, by order of the French government. On his return to England, he purchased on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, 1812, a troop in the second life guards, and obtained the brevet rank of major in the army. With this regiment, whose services were so useful in Spain and at Thoulouse, Major Fitzgerald added to his military reputation, and was on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1814, raised to the rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel. In 1815, the life guards were in active service, and on the plain of Waterloo proved the superiority of British valour and strength, when opposed to the iron-clad cuirassiers of France. Few that encountered swords in that battle, survived to tell the story of their fate - and terrible was the havock and harvest of slaughter, when the heavy cavalry dashed in to complete the destruction begun by the artillery and the foot: -

"Then down went helm and lance;  
Down were the eagle banners sent;  
Down reeling steeds and riders went,  
Courslets were pierc'd and pennant rent.  
And, to augment the fray,  
Wheel'd full against their stagg'ring flanks,  
The English horsemen's foaming ranks,  
Fore'd their resistless way."

Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzgerald unhappily survived not to enjoy the honours acquired by his exertions and valour in this sanguinary field. Towards the close of the action, being at the moment advanced at the head of the right squadron, and gallantly leading it on to victory, a cannon-ball closed his career.

The following inscription is on a plain marble tablet in the church of Waterloo: -

"Sacred to the memory of  
Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Fitzgerald,  
Of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reg. of Life Guards  
of His Britannic Majesty,  
Who died gloriously in the battle of  
La Belle Alliance<sup>v</sup>,  
June 18, 1815,  
In the forty-first year of his age."



The Memorial Tablet in the Church at Waterloo

<sup>i</sup> An engraving of FitzGerald can be found at <http://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000185177>



ii **Georgiana Isabella d'Aguilar** is the daughter of Baron Ephraim López Pereira d'Aguilar and Sarah Mendez da Costa. She married, firstly, Admiral The Hon. Keith Stewart, son of Alexander Stewart, 6th Earl of Galloway and Lady Catherine Cochrane, on 13 May 1782. She married, secondly, Lt.-Col. Richard FitzGerald on 16 February 1797 at St Marylebone Parish Church. From 13 May 1782, her married name became Stewart. From 16 February 1797, her married name became FitzGerald. Children of Georgiana Isabella d'Aguilar and Admiral Hon. Keith Stewart 1. The Rt. Hon. James Alexander Stewart-Mackenzie b. 23 Sep 1784, d. 24 Sep 1843 2. Leveson Douglas Stewart b. 24 Jul 1786, d. 30 Apr 1819



iii

**Portrait of** Georgiana Isabella d'Aguilar as a child. French School, now hanging in Lews Castle College

<sup>iv</sup> **Baron Ephraim López Pereira d'Aguilar** d. 16 March 1802 was born at Vienna, Austria. He was the son of Baron Diego López d'Aguilar and Donna Simha daFonseca. He married Sarah Mendez da Costa, daughter of Moses Mendez da Costa, in 1749. He married Rebecca Lamego in 1767. He died on 16 March 1802 at Shaftesbury Place, Aldersgate, London, England. He was naturalized as a British citizen in 1759. He succeeded to the title of *2nd Baron d'Aguilar* in 1759.

<sup>v</sup> The only officer to be killed in the battle