

into the upper province, as it had in the previous two years. On Lake Erie, a large barracks was built at Buffalo, with fifty chimneys. General Jacob Brown was said to be moving 2,500 troops to the Detroit area. A Mrs McIntosh, who travelled from Sandwich, near Detroit, to Dundas, just west of Burlington, told of an American plan to raid the village of Delaware, along the Thames River.<sup>19</sup> It appeared that the year would start with multiple attacks by the Americans.

One of Yeo's ideas, expressed to Prevost in January 1815 was to construct three frigates and two large brigs at Isle aux Noix, the key British defensive establishment on the Richelieu River south of Montreal that guarded the approach to Canada, to divert American attention and shipwrights from Lake Ontario, thus stalling their ship building at Sackets Harbor.<sup>20</sup> He was convinced such a force could recapture Lake Champlain. Yeo wanted to continue building the two first rate ships on the stocks at Kingston, to offset the American building at Sackets, which he considered closer to launch than the British ships. At the beginning of January 1815 he told John Wilson Croker, first secretary of the Admiralty that he had requested all the ordnance stores at Quebec for the two new ships, and about the proposed building at Isle aux Noix. Yeo also requested guns to complete the armaments of *Psyche* and *Princess Charlotte*. He suggested that the needed cannons be taken from the forts and batteries at Quebec, if necessary.

In January, Yeo visited Turkey Point on Lake Erie to see if it was a good spot for a naval establishment.<sup>21</sup> He then attempted to go to Penetanguishene, on Lake Huron's Georgian Bay, but only made it as far as Lake Simcoe due to the weather, before returning to Kingston in mid February. Commodore Yeo had sent Captain Edward Collier to Penetanguishene, at the end of 1814, to prepare the site for a proposed naval establishment on the upper lake, and to set about building a frigate.<sup>22</sup> The stores for such a venture were in transit to Lake Simcoe.

On February 25, 1815 Sir James received a message from American Commodore Isaac Chauncey, at Sackets Harbor, indicating the ratification of the Treaty of Ghent, a copy of which was attached.<sup>23</sup> Yeo asked Prevost if all building should stop. If not, he could send artificers to Lake Erie to start on the base at Turkey Point. He repeated that finishing the first rate ships at Kingston was absolutely necessary, even if peace continued.

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19 Drummond to Prevost, 16 February 1815, LAC, RG 8, v. 687, mfr. C3231, 114-19. Delaware is 10 kilometres west of London, Ontario.

20 Yeo to Prevost, 6 January 1815, LAC, State Papers Lower Canada Sir George Prevost - 1815, Q131, mfr C11922, 5; Yeo to Croker, 1 January 1815, LAC, ADM 1/2738, 22-23b.

21 Drummond to Prevost, 14 February 1815, LAC, RG 8, v. 687, mfr. C3231, 108-13.

22 Yeo to Croker, 24 October 1814, LAC, ADM 1/2737, 221-26. Yeo to Prevost, 22 November 1814, LAC, RG 8, v. 733, mfr. C3244, 123-28.

23 Yeo to Prevost, 25 February 1815, LAC, ADM 1/2262, 71-b. Yeo to Prevost, 25 February 1815, LAC, RG 8, v. 687, mfr. C3231, p142-4; Gough, 129.