

# Fort Ontario in 1812

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<http://www.rbhousemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/sm-ochs-issue-1946.pdf>

## One of Last Forts Evacuated

Fort Ontario was one of the last posts on the frontier to be surrendered by England after the Revolution. Owing to various contentions by the British which were not settled until the ratification of the Jay treaty, it was held until July 15, 1796. On that day, the English garrison under Colonel Fothergill and Captain Clark evacuated the Fort, and the American forces, led by Captain Elmer, marched in and raised the Stars and Stripes over the old fortifications.

From then until the war of 1812, Fort Ontario was peacefully garrisoned, while Oswego and the surrounding territory gradually grew in population and importance. In the Spring of 1814, the British made several attempts to capture the fort. On May 6th, after a naval bombardment of three hours, followed by land attacks, it was forced to capitulate to Sir James Yeo. The British had received information that a large supply of Naval Stores for use of the new ships being built at Sacket's Harbor, was being held in Oswego. The Americans, however, had anticipated the attack, and Lieutenant M. T Woolsey, in charge of the stores at Oswego had transported them in nineteen

boats to Oswego Falls and safety. The English made no attempt to retain Fort Ontario, and quickly withdrew after doing what damage they could to the fort. Woolsey later got the supplies through to Sacket's Harbor.

Sir James Lucas Yeo, commander of the British Naval Forces on Lake Ontario; portrait early 1800's; this image is in the public domain in the United States because it was first published prior to January 1, 1923.

