

# Letters of 1812 Contributed

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Draft of letter from General Sheaffe to Major General Van Rensselaer.

Fort George, 13th October, 1812.

Sir:—I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your communication of date, and was pleased to learn at the same time that the officer commanding at Queenston had acceded to your proposal of sending surgeons to that post for the aid of the wounded prisoners, (though the attention of our surgeons might have prevented their suffering from the delay that might have been occasioned by his waiting for my sanction), without incurring the delay that would have been occasioned by a reference to me, but as our means of affording assistance to them as well to our own wounded may be inadequate, I beg leave to propose that the wounded prisoners whose cases may admit of removal should be sent over to you on condition of not serving again until regularly exchanged.

Though the proposition which I had the honor of making to you to-day did not go the extent that, by some mistake, you were led to suppose, yet I readily concur with you in agreeing to a cessation of firing for three days and I transmit orders to that effect to the officers commanding at the several posts on this line.

P. S. 14th October, 1812

Having delayed sending the accompanying to give General Wadsworth and the other officers who are prisoners an opportunity of (sending) writing for some necessary articles, I have the honor at the same time to propose an exchange of prisoners including those who were taken some days ago in the two vessels cut out from Ft. Erie harbor. I have further to propose, Sir, that the militia taken prisoners, excluding the number that may be exchanged, shall be restored to their homes and families under an engagement not to serve against Great Britain or her allies during the war or until regularly exchanged.

(Canadian Archives, C. 688, B, Pp. 179 180)

The words in brackets have been struck out and those following substituted.