

the illustrious General Wolfe. The fall of Louisburg involved the loss of the Island of St. John as well as of Cape Breton to the French, and immediately afterwards, a detachment of troops under the command of Colonel Lord Rollo took possession of the Island under the terms of capitulation, and removed the French troops stationed there, and many of the inhabitants as prisoners of war. In the following year Quebec was taken by General Wolfe, and by the treaty of Paris effected in February 1763, Canada, Cape Breton, and this Island were all ceded to Great Britain. After this treaty, the Island of St. John was annexed to Nova Scotia, and remained subject to its government until 1769 when it was created a separate colony.

After the Island became a British Possession, very little time was suffered to elapse before steps were taken with a view to its permanent settlement. The Earl of Egmont, then first Lord of the Admiralty took the initiative in this respect. In December 1763, he applied to the Government for a grant of the whole island, to be held under a system of Feudal tenure which was set forth in detail in a memorial presented by him to the King. Under this scheme the island was to be held by him as Lord Paramount or Capital Lord of the Fee, by a tenure of finding twelve hundred men for its defence. Upon the assumption that it contained 2,000,000 acres, it was proposed to divide it into 50 parts of equal extent called Hundreds, each embracing 40,000 acres, which were to be severally subdivided into 20 Manors of 2000 acres each.

Of the 50 Hundreds into which it was to be thus divided, 40 were to be granted to 40 different persons, to be held by them as Lords of the Hundreds for ever. Each hundred was charged with an annual payment to the Earl as Lord Paramount, of £20 Sterling, and the furnishing of ten men for the defence of the Island; and of the 20 Manors into which these Hundreds were to be severally subdivided, 10 were to be granted by each Lord of the Hundred to 10 different persons to be called Lords of the Manors, each of whom was required to pay annually therefor forty shillings sterling, and also to furnish one man by his tenure for purposes of defence. Each of these Lords of the Manor was also required to establish in his Manor two freeholders having each Freeholds of 200 acres, which were to be held by each of these by finding one man for defence of the Island, and by paying the Lord of the Manor annually four shillings sterling.