

circuit of the coast measures 275 miles, and its southern part contains many bays and harbors; while in the northern there are few places of safety for shipping. The shores are bold, and generally free from rocks. Its surface contains in all about 3,120 square miles.

The island was first discovered by Cabot, and afterwards by the Italian voyager Verazzani, who named it Isle du Cap. The name of Isle Royale was given it by the French in 1713. In 1714, the first settlements were made upon it, by a few French fishermen from Newfoundland and Acadia, who established themselves in a scattered manner along the coast, as each one found convenient space for drying fish or laying out a garden. No regular establishment was however made until 1720, when the French, in order to secure themselves a depot for their fisheries and the means of commanding the entrance to the St. Lawrence and the commerce of Canada, founded the celebrated military town of Louisbourg, upon a safe and commodious harbor near the southeastern angle of the island, fortified it at an expense of 30,000,000 of livres, raised it quickly to importance as a depot of naval and land forces and commerce, and gathered in it a population of 5,000.

In 1745, in revenge for some ill-judged attacks by the French on the English in Nova Scotia, the famous first siege of Louisbourg was planned and performed. It is said to have been first suggested to Governor Shirley of Massachusetts, by a trader who had been within the town. Shirley sent to England for permission and aid in the autumn of 1744; but laid the scheme before the General Court of Massachusetts under a pledge of secrecy, in the spring, without waiting for an answer from home. It was rejected at first, but was accidentally revealed by a pious member, who at family prayers asked God's blessing on the enterprise. Becoming rapidly known, and everywhere popular, petitions for it came in from all over the colony; it was reconsidered in the general court, resolved on by a majority of one, circulars sent to the other colonies for aid, and the raising of forces commenced at once. More than 3,200 were enlisted in Massachusetts, 500 from Connecticut, and 300 from New Hampshire, together with a naval force of ten vessels, the largest of twenty guns, together with a few armed sloops. All this was done in two months; the command was bestowed on Colonel William Pepperrell of Kittery, Maine, an affable and influential man and shrewd merchant, but no great soldier. Great enthusiasm prevailed;