



## Outline: CHWNE Module 3: Francis and Exploration - de Roberval

### Jean-Francois de La Roque de Roberval (1500-1560)

- He was a nobleman, a war hero, a childhood friend of Francis I, pirate privateer, and colonizer.
- De Roberval inherited substantial wealth from his father's marriages and from relatives who died childless.
- Worked under the orders of the **Marshall of France**, who commanded the king's armies - **Robert de La Marck-Fleurange**
- **In 1535, Jean-François de La Roque de Roberval became a Huguenot** and was wanted for hanging. Francis 1 protected him in his palace.
- **War Experience** - joined the French Army, participating in many of the **Italian Wars between 1524 and 1544**. Was present in Pavia when Francis was captured in 1525.
- **In 1536**, de Roberval also participated in a siege against a Spanish force on its way to Paris... witnessed the death of La Marck
- **Exploration** - In January 1541, de Roberval was named **Captain General** and leader of the expedition to Canada, while **Cartier was named as Chief Navigator, Cartographer and Explorer**.



- **Francis 1** provided three ships and some funds for the journey. The three ships were: the **Valentine, the Anne, and the Lechefraye**.
- De Roberval was given permission to recruit the necessary manpower. The first attempted colony included noblemen, craftsmen, soldiers, and even criminals as cheap labour.
- Due to the delays, de Roberval sent Cartier ahead in **May of 1541 with 500 colonists** to begin settling the colony before he arrived. J
- **Also in 1541**, it seemed like war was on the horizon again with the assassination of two French ambassadors in Italy by the Spanish.
- **On April 16 1542**, De Roberval set out from La Rochelle with three ships piloted by **Jean Fontenaue**, to go to Canada.
- Nevertheless, he arrived at Newfoundland on **June 8th 1542**, just as Cartier was on his way back to France.
- Cartier was ordered back to the colony by de Roberval
- De Roberval inhabited the **Charlesbourg Royal (named after Francis I's son, Charles IX)** and also inherited the fallout from Cartier's conflict with the natives.
- **In the spring of 1543** they went exploring the Saguenay region, losing 8 people



- Francis had sent fresh supplies to them with a letter demanding their return to France,
- He was engaged in all the other conflicts in France until the **peace treaty of 1558**.
- By then, **King Henry II had appointed him as the Royal Superintendent of Mines**.
- Just before the outbreak of the French Wars of Religion, **de Roberval died while leaving a Calvinist meeting in 1560**.