



# CHWNE Module 3

## Lesson 2

### Jacques Cartier (1491-1557)

#### Part 2



In January 1541, **Jacques Cartier** was expecting to be named Lieutenant Governor of Canada by Francis I.

Instead, in another attempt at colonization of Canada, King Francis I appointed **Jean-François de La Rocque de Roberval** as Lieutenant Governor of French Canada.

He was a **42 year old Protestant, a courtier**, friend of the King and senior military officer. He had become a Protestant since **1535 (after the Placard Affair)**.



**Jacques Cartier** was appointed by the King as the guide; he was made responsible for mapping and explorations.

His explicit instruction was **to find the kingdom of the Saguenay** which reputedly held promise of gold and riches. King Francis I gave him a subsidy of 45,000 crowns (about \$800,000 by today's standards) to outfit 3 ships.



De Roberval was responsible for logistics, and for planting a colony of up to 800 people. He was sent to secure France's claim to the new lands, against the claims of Spain.

De Roberval was commissioned to found a colony, establish churches, schools, and fortified towns; he was also charged with spreading the Holy Catholic faith.



De Roberval was also responsible for providing defence (securing ammunition), and recruiting craftsmen - including prisoners - for labour and building construction.

The expedition was delayed because de Roberval wanted to raise more funding by selling some of his property and raiding English ships (as a privateer). Some noblemen accompanied him on this journey to Canada.



Because of those delays, Cartier was sent ahead in **May 1541** with half of the men to establish the colony. Cartier left from **La Rochelle** with 200 would-be colonists, earlier than de Roberval.

He arrived in **August 1541**, with de Roberval arriving the following year in the **Spring of 1542**. Cartier chose a location upstream from **Stadacona (Quebec City)** at the confluence of the Cap Rouge and St. Lawrence Rivers.



**Cartier did not receive a warm welcome** this time, probably because of the kidnapping of 10 Indians and Donnacona 4 years previously.

He had kidnapped Donnacona so that he could recount the Saguenay legend to the King.

Cartier returned without him because Donnacona had died in France.



Cartier set the colonists and craftsmen to plant crops and build a fort, **leaving on September 7** to explore and to find the **Kingdom of the Saguenay**.

In his explorations, he collected **12 barrels of 'precious stones and metals'**. Only when he got to France did he find that **they were no more than iron pyrites and quartz crystals**.



While Cartier was away exploring, the Iroquois attacked and killed 35 settlers, causing them to spend the winter in a state of siege. They left in **May 1542, as soon as the river thawed and** before de Roberval could arrive at the settlement.

On his way back to France in **the spring of 1542**, Cartier stopped in St. John Newfoundland where he met de Roberval on his way to the settlement. They exchanged maps and de Roberval ordered Cartier back to Quebec, but he stole away in the night to France.



It was difficult for de Roberval and his men to establish a settlement because Cartier had left behind disgruntled, hostile Iroquois. The colony lasted less than one year, plagued by illness and problems with the disparate group of settlers he took to Quebec.

**De Roberval also explored along the Saguenay River, looking for the fabled 'City of Gold' which supposedly existed along that river.**



He and his men had a difficult time living through the winter. They were plagued by cold, hunger and sickness. It was also challenging to manage hardened criminals who were recruited as part of the expedition.

It is said that de Roberval, soldier that he was, probably doled out harsh punishments for infractions. Settlers were either hung or exiled to an island for petty theft.



It is also said that he forced the settlers to work, with threats of withholding food and drink from them if they did not.

Eventually he sent sent 2 men to King Francis I for help.

A rescue ship was sent in 1543 to take them back to France. No more exploratory trips were made to Canada for about 50 years.