

CHWNE Module 6 Lesson 4

Samuel de Champlain (2)

1574-1635



When **Henry IV** was assassinated in **May 1610**, his heir to the throne was **9-year old Louis XIII**.

His mother, **Marie de Medici** ruled as Queen regent for the boy.

She was a **staunch Catholic** who had not the least interest in **New France**.



She denied the many **Protestant financial supporters of New France**, access to the court.

This included **Pierre Du Gua de Monts**.

Political connections were important to the support of the colony.



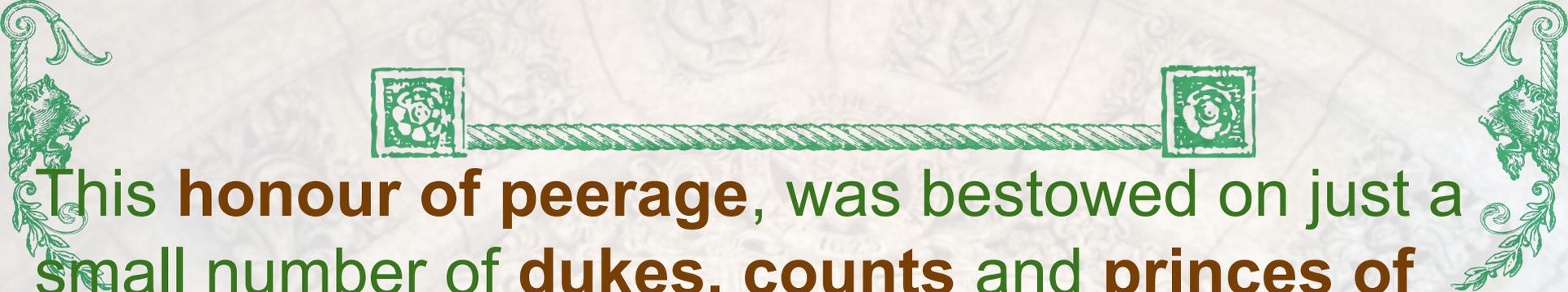
Champlain returned to France in September 1610, to find a way to keep access to the King's court.

He and **Pierre Du Gua de Monts** had a mutual friend in **Nicolas Boulle (who was the Lord Chamberlain of France)**, who was instrumental in executing royal orders of the court.



Nicolas Boule, as Lord Chamberlain, carried out many legal responsibilities such as ensuring that royal documents and charters were signed.

He also assisted in any legal proceedings against the highest ranking nobility (peers).



This **honour of peerage**, was bestowed on just a small number of **dukes, counts and princes of the Catholic Church**.

Boulle also recorded any **oath of homage made to the crown**.

As Chamberlain, it was his responsibility to help **'dress the king'** in his ceremonial gear for his coronation- with his boots, tunic, and headwear.



He had permanent access to the King's Chamber.

That position had been **traditionally held by the Orleans branch** of the royal family, then by the **Duke of Guise**.

Finally by **Boulle's family members (the La Tour d'Auvergne-Bouillon family)**, until the monarchy ended.



Boulle agreed to the marriage if his 12-year old daughter to 36 year old Champlain in **December of 1610**, so that he could gain access to the court and lobby for support for the colony.

Pierre Du Gua de Monts was a witness to the marriage contract which stated that the marriage was to be consummated two years later.



However, Champlain apparently got permission to consummate the marriage right away.

Strong-willed Helene rebelled when she had to join him in 1613.

He arrived back in New France with Helene in March of 1613 and with a new royal commission.



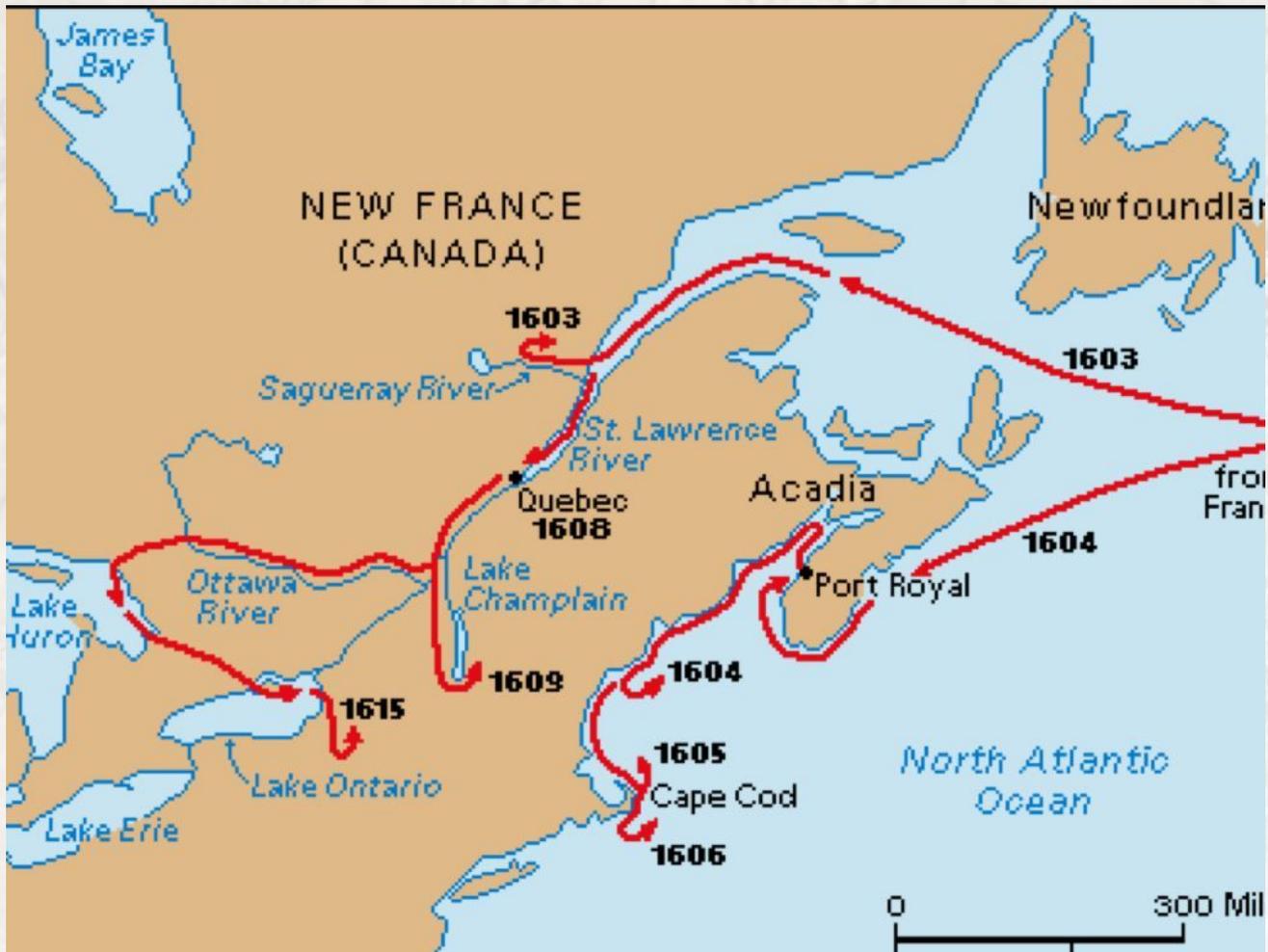
They had a troubled marriage at first which settled down eventually.

They had no children but **Champlain adopted 3 Montagnais girls called Faith, Hope and Charity in 1627-1628.**

Helene lived in Quebec for many years eventually going **back to France and joined a convent.**



In **May 1613**, he continued exploring and mapping the area in Huron country in search of the sea he had heard about. (**Lake Champlain was subsequently named after him.**)





He also mapped the **Ottawa River** as he followed it, becoming the first person to do so.

**RIDEAU Falls
or CURTAIN
Falls in Ottawa.
This is what
Champlain saw.**





He encountered **Tessouat - the Algonquin chief.**

He had he promised him a fort for his tribe, if they would move from their current location on **Allumettes Island to the area around the Lachine Falls.**

The soils on which they lived were poor.



In August 1613, he returned to **St Malo** where he wrote his biography for the years **1604 to 1612**.

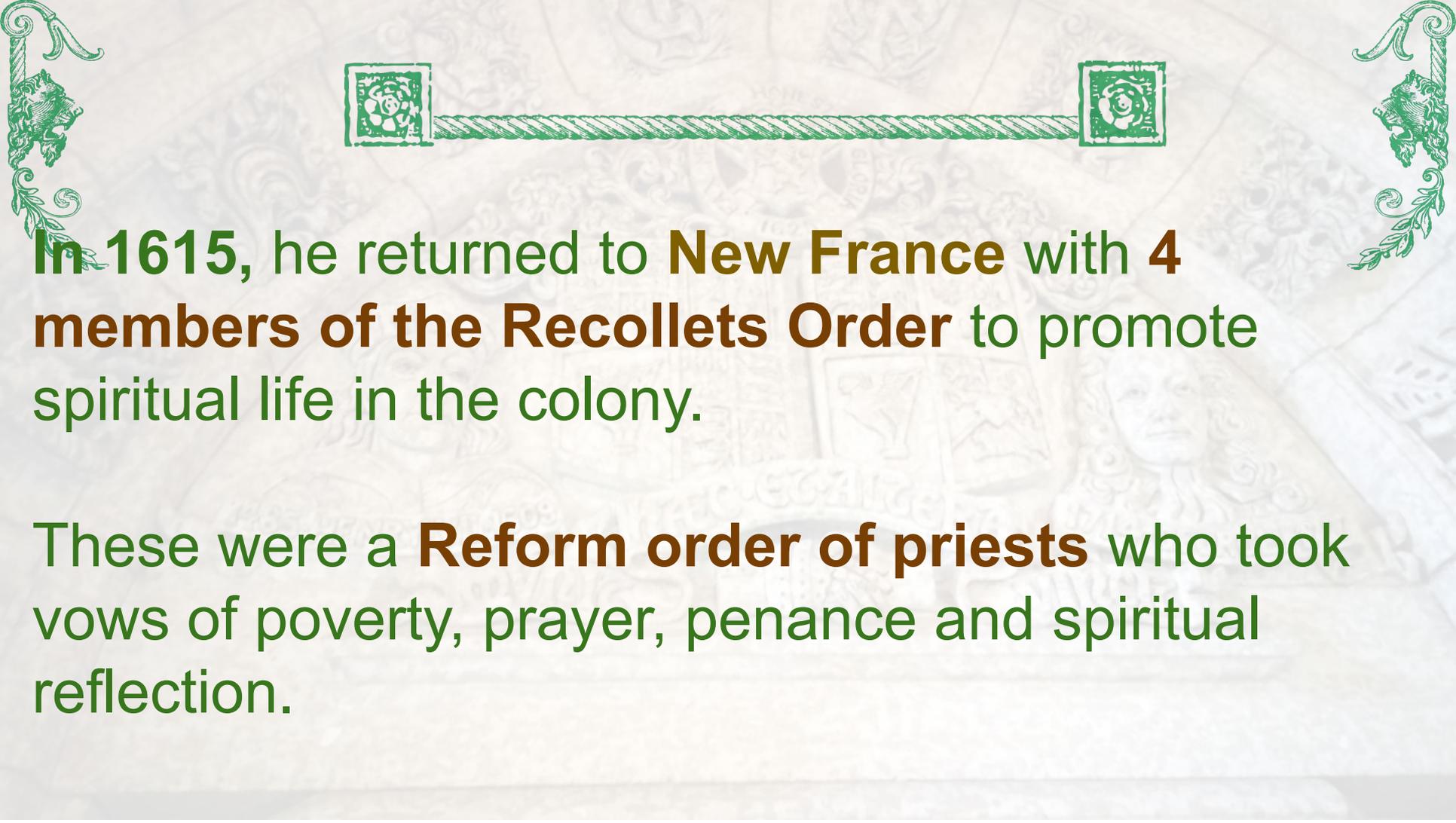
This included his **journey up the Ottawa River** PLUS a new **map of New France**.



In 1614, because of his **royal commission to build colonies**, he formed two trading companies:

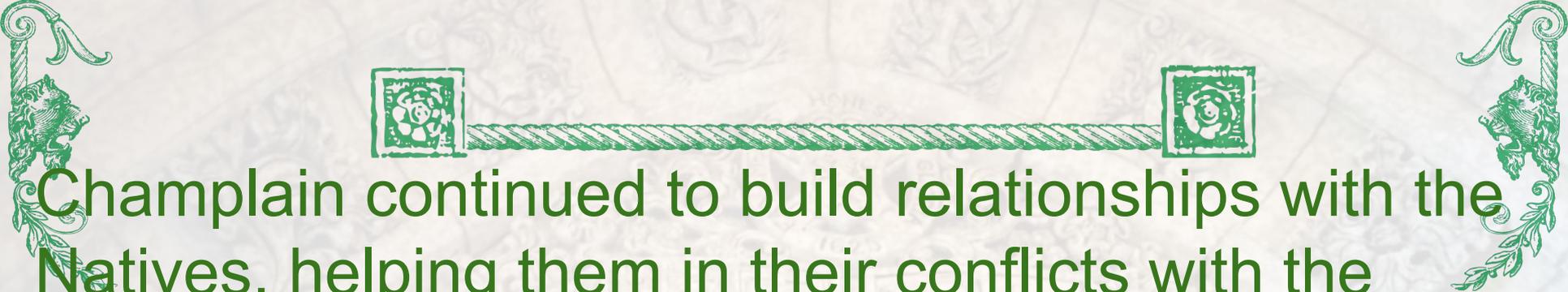
- the ‘**Compagnie des Marchands de Rouen et de Saint-Malo**’
- and ‘**Compagnie de Champlain**’.

Merchants signed a trade contract with him for eleven years. (1614-1625)



In **1615**, he returned to **New France** with **4** members of the **Recollets Order** to promote spiritual life in the colony.

These were a **Reform order of priests** who took vows of poverty, prayer, penance and spiritual reflection.



Champlain continued to build relationships with the Natives, helping them in their conflicts with the Iroquois.

The **Native guides** helped him to explore and map further up the Ottawa River to **Lake Nippising**.

Following the French River led him to **Lake Huron** which he called **Lac Attigouautau**.



In 1615, the Hurons escorted him through Peterborough.

He spent some time in what is now Bridgenorth.

In September of 1615, he visited a Huron community called Cahiaque on Lake Simcoe.



There, he and the Northern tribes launched a battle against the Iroquois.

Passing the eastern tip of **Lake Ontario**, they travelled on the **Oneida River**, arriving at the main Iroquois fort of **Onondaga** by **October 10th, 1615** - **10 miles south of Canastota New York.**



His army constituted **10 Frenchmen and 300 Hurons.**

The village was stockaded, and the assault failed because of premature actions by the group.

The battle ended on **October 16, 1615** when the **French and Hurons had to retreat**, with Champlain being wounded by 2 arrows.



At their insistence, he spent the winter with them accompanying them on their great deer hunt.

He got lost in the forest, wandering for 3 days living on game and sleeping under trees.

Eventually he met another group of Natives with whom he spent the rest of the winter learning their lifestyles and customs.



He left their country in **May of 1616** to head back to **Quebec**.

He returned to **France** in **July of 1616**.

When he returned to **New France** in **1620**, it was with orders to **focus on the administration of the colony** rather than exploration.



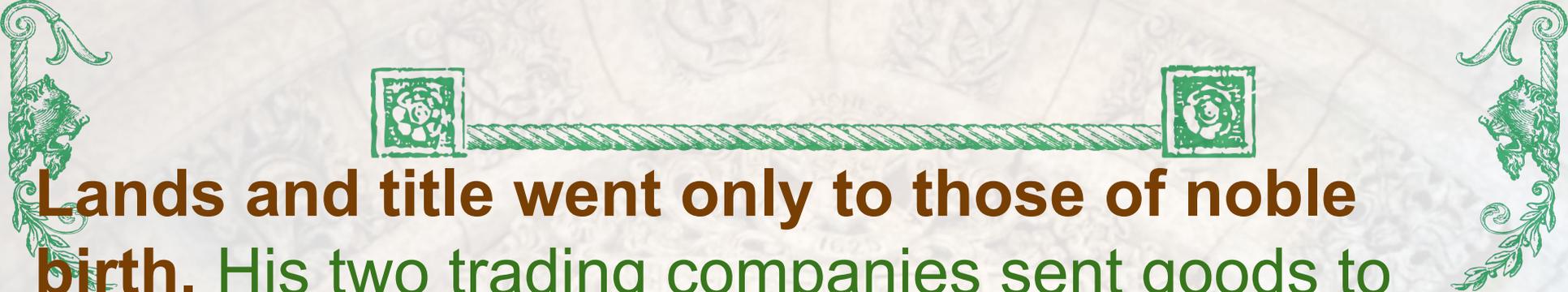
The first thing he did was to **build the fort St Louis at the top of Cape Diamond. (current location of Chateau Frontenac)**

By 1620, The Habitation was mainly used as a storehouse for the trading company.



By that time, **Champlain had built the wooden Fort St Louis** near the only two houses built by the settler families of **Louis Hebert and Guillaume Couillard**.

Champlain was de facto, the Governor of New France, even though he could not officially hold the title.



Lands and title went only to those of noble birth. His two trading companies sent goods to trade with the natives for fur.

When **Champlain** died in **1635**, there were **150** inhabitants in **Quebec**.

Champlain served under various **Viceroy**s and **Lieutenant**s.



The **Roman Catholic Church** was eventually given large tracts of land called **en seigneuries** which accounted for **30% of all lands granted by the French Crown in New France.**