

## A bit of history

The history of Callot island is actually closely linked to the invasion of the island by the Danes at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> Century. They used the island to stock the booty from their plundering on the continent.

Until the day when the Breton chief, Rivallon Murmaczon decided to launch an attack against the Danish pirate Korsolde.

According to the legend by Albert-le-Grand, before launching the assault, he prayed to the Almighty Virgin, in order that she protect him during the battle.

He promised her to build a sanctuary on the spot where the tent of the Danish chief once stood if he emerged victorious from this struggle.

The battle was bloody, several thousand Danes were killed.

In the year 513, Murmaczon laid the foundation stone of the small chapel: this is when the Bretons gave a name to the island: Enez-Itron Varia Ar Galloud (the island of Our Lady Almighty).

From that time, the chapel has always been a place of pilgrimage.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the corsairs from Morlaix used to salute it with a cannon-shot, when they left the harbour to attack English vessels.

During the Revolution, it was damaged and converted into a military outpost. Between 1801 and 1808, the chapel was restored at the request of the rector Mr. Nédellec and the Mayor of that time.

Callot island is essentially made of granite which was massively exploited during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The hospital, the tobacco factory and a part of the Viaduct in Morlaix as well as many buildings in the surrounding area were constructed with granite from Callot.

