

Program: Fly-Over States Origins, 1783-1848

Speaker: Roger Robison, MD, Club Member

Introduced by: Bonnie Carter

Attendance: 98

Guests: Arturo Miller, Dee Saul

Scribe: Hank Wolflla

Editor: Joe Abella

Today Dr. Roger Robison, with his wonderful sense of humor, gave the club an enjoyable review of how the world and North America was partitioned by a simple search for a path to China by going west. It was not the French or the British but the Spanish who first sailed west, with the ocean currents landing them into riches far greater than a path east. Just imagine, in 1600 the Spanish had twelve mints in the New World just to handle the amount of gold and silver they hauled away!

The New World was explored by the Spanish and Portuguese first, and then came the French and the English. The first settlement was Spanish at St. Augustine in 1565, followed by the French in Quebec in 1608. England and France had colonies located in Lower Quebec and the Upper Great Lakes in what is known today as Canada. The French also controlled territory called Upper Louisiana in Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana, and Lower Louisiana in today's states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Thanks to the French, the Revolutionary War additions to our nation in 1783 were substantial. Roger stated that there were more French soldiers at the battle of Yorktown than American!

Dr. Robinson gave some interesting facts about the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812. It seems that well over 1800 missiles in addition to cannon fire, provided the "light" that inspired Francis Scott Key to write our national anthem, the "Star Spangled Banner." What is not widely known is that these rockets were extremely inaccurate, and only one did any damage causing a limited loss of life. This was a great fire show by the British that only provided our national anthem.

Dr. Robinson continued his talk about American efforts to invade Canada. We must have forgotten how loyal to the Crown some French and the English were and that they had no desire to be part of the USA. Our attempts to annex Canada were not successful.

The membership enjoyed the talk, and as always enjoyed the humor provided by Dr. Robinson in this and his past presentations.



Dr. Roger Robison