The Griggs County area was first claimed by Christopher Columbus.

Kind of indirectly but Columbus did claim the entire new world for Spain. Pope Alexander VI agreed and later drew a line of demarcation between the North Pole and the South Pole that went between the west coast of Africa and the islands that Christopher Columbus had recently discovered.

The lands west of it were Spanish and the lands east of it in Africa, India and Asia belonged to Portugal. Later he drew another line of demarcation that went approximately through eastern Australia. The lands to the east of this line were Spanish and the lands west of it including Japan and China were Portuguese.

Pope Alexander VI is remembered for many other notable things. He preferred to have sex with his beautiful 17 year old daughter, Lucrezia. She spurned him because she preferred to have sex with either of her two handsome brothers, Cesare and Juan.

His son Cesare hosted a party on October 30, 1501 in the Vatican. He invited “fifty honest prostitutes” for entertainment. They came clothed and he soon auctioned off their clothes. Then he spread chestnuts around the floor and encouraged them to go around naked and gather them up. “Lots of bending over came next, very high class of course” according to one historian. Then he put candles around the floor and had them crawl around naked between the candles to pick up the chestnuts. The Pope, his daughter Lucrezia and his son Cesare had the best seats in the house.

Then Cesare announced that prizes would be awarded to the man who could have the most sex with the courtesans. The guests threw off their clothes, ran out onto the floor and the partying began. Servants kept score of each man's orgasms, for the pope greatly admired virility measured and a man's machismo by his ejaculative capacity. After everyone was exhausted, His Holiness distributed the prizes.

And that’s the story of how the Griggs County area was first claimed by Christopher Columbus. Readers who want more details should google “Orgy of Chestnuts”.

Who says history has to be boring?