

## October 8, 2009 - History of the American Flag

John Sipos, Cassadaga village historian, was the guest speaker at the recent meeting of the Kiantone Historical Society.

Sipos was introduced by Carolyn Volk, program chairman, who gave a brief resume of Sipos' achievements. Sipos then spoke about the history of the American Flag, the birthday of the flag and how George Washington and two others took it upon themselves to commission Betsy Ross to create the first official American flag. There were other flags prior to this time representing the United States, and June 14th, 1777, Congress decided a permanent flag was to be created with the 13 stripes alternating red and white, and a blue constellation of 13 stars representing the 13 states of the union.

Sipos showed the American flag which had 15 stars and 15 stripes when more states were added to the union and said the flag was getting out of proportion. In 1818, the flag was returned to 13 stripes. The 15 star and 15 stripe flag was used during the war of 1812, and when the Star-Spangled Banner was written by Francis Scott Key. Sipos also told the history of the pledge of allegiance written on the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus discovering the new world.

Randy Hutley, society president, opened the meeting with a welcome to all. Melanie Hutley, secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting. The newly constructed oak cabinet was officially presented to the group, which was constructed to match the two old oak cabinets already in the meeting hall. An election of new officers for 2010 was held. Hutley was re-elected to serve again as president, with Mrs. Hutley to serve again as secretary. Carolyn Volk was elected to serve as the treasurer of the society and also to serve as the program chairman. The title of the historical society librarian is yet to be elected.