

Cigar Box Bulletin

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2019

6 Frigates: Starting the US Navy

Peter Sebelius, Retired from USN and Draper Labs.

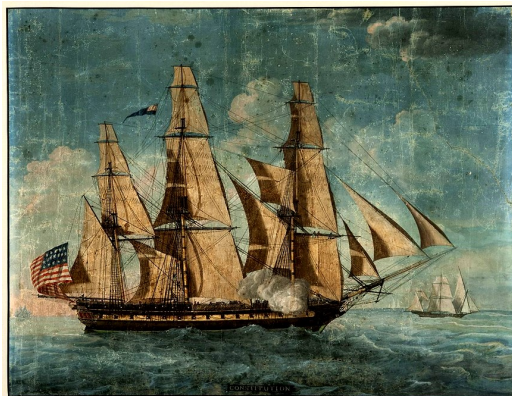
Reporter: Jim Bright

Peter Sebelius is a 1976 graduate of MIT with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. He served on active duty in the U.S. Navy as an Engineering Duty officer for six years, and then worked at the Draper Laboratories in Cambridge for over 30 years. He and his family have lived in Chelmsford since 1982. Peter told the story of the creation of the U.S. Navy.

In the late 18th century, the United States was a maritime trading nation, sending ships into the Caribbean, North Atlantic, and Mediterranean. But after the Revolution, our ships were no longer protected by the British Navy. They were therefore easy prey for pirates – particularly Arab raiders sailing out of Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli. The pirates would demand “tribute” (i.e., protection money) and threaten to capture our ships if the tribute was

not paid. Even if it was paid, sometimes they would capture ships and enslave the crews.

In response, Congress authorized the building of six square-rigged frigates in 1794 – *The Constitution, United States, President, Constellation, Congress, and Chesapeake*. The following shows the *Constitution*.



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September Meeting Minutes

Ship's Bell Rang at 10:00 AM

Reporter: Bill Tafuri

Chris Hammer called the meeting to order and lead members in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the singing of the Star Spangled Banner. Chris called for a moment of silence in memory of all those impacted by the 9/11 attacks which occurred 18 years ago this past Wednesday, and the passing of the spouses of two RMA members: Jacquelyn Hays on 8/8, wife of **Bob Kagey** and Audrey Levington on 8/21,

wife of **David Levington**.

Paul Sturgis announced that there are not any new members at the meeting but there are three visitors: **Chuck Wade** introduced his guest Mat Leupold who has lived in Wayland since 1955 and presently lives at Traditions in Wayland. Mat graduated from MIT and worked there ever since including 10

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Friday, October 11

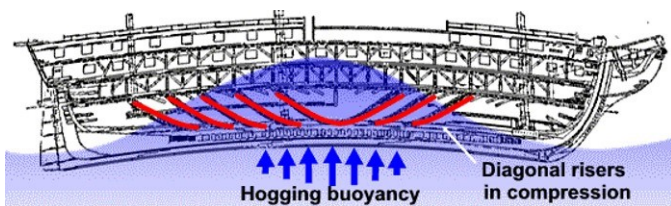
Friday, November 8

Friday, December 13

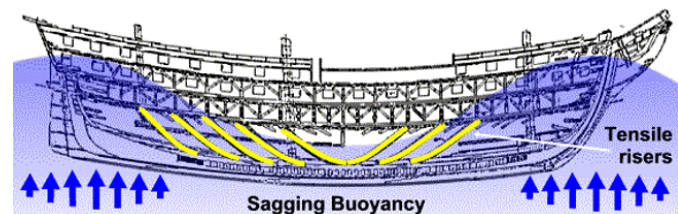
Speaker — Continued

At the request of George Washington, the ships were built in six different shipyards scattered along the Atlantic Coast from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Gosport, Virginia. The *Constitution* was built in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Beginning a pattern that would continue to this day, construction ran late. The ships were supposed to be ready by the end of 1795, but at that time no frigate was more than half finished, and the *Constellation* was a pile of boards on the ground, awaiting assembly in Baltimore.

A treaty was signed with Algiers in February 1796, reducing the urgent need for a navy. Nevertheless, construction continued, and the frigates were finally launched between 1797 and 1800. The ships were fast, due to a unique design, by the naval architect Joshua Humphreys, that used diagonal bracing to resist the flexing of the hull in waves. (This flexing slows down the ship.) The Humphreys design is shown below.



Diagonal bracing to carry bending moments in the hull.



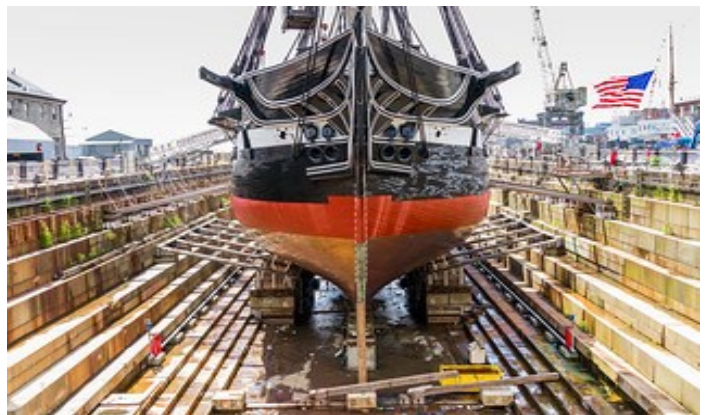
Fully twice the size of a typical British frigate, the American frigates were designed to be “strong enough to beat any ordinary frigate, and fast enough to outrun larger ships”. This allowed each American to operate alone, a realistic assumption considering the small size of the American Navy.

Despite the 1796 treaty, depredations from the Barbary pirates soon resumed. An incident arose involving a seventh frigate, the *Philadelphia*, which was funded by the citizens of that city and commissioned in 1800. *Philadelphia* was chasing a pirate ship and ran aground on a reef two miles outside Tripoli harbor. In an effort to lighten the ship, the captain ordered most of the cargo, cannon, and shot

heaved overboard. Sadly, he had not accounted for the wind and currents, which simply pushed the ship further onto the reef. Seeing the American ship nearly helpless, the pirates soon returned, and *Philadelphia* was forced to surrender. (The luckless captain first tried to scuttle the ship, but was unable to do so.) To add to the indignity, the cannon that had been tossed into the sea were soon recovered by divers.

Philadelphia was considered to be too great a prize to remain in the hands of the pirates, so a young Lieutenant named Stephen Decatur concocted plans to burn her. Using a small ship that had been taken from the pirates and disguised to look like a Maltese vessel, Decatur led a volunteer assault party into Tripoli harbor. Pretending to have lost their anchor, they asked to tie up to the *Philadelphia*. The assault party was then able to overcome the guards, set fire to the *Philadelphia*, and escape on their own ship. The event made Decatur’s reputation.

Limited time prevented Peter from finishing all the material he had brought, but he urged interested individuals to go to <https://ussconstitutionmuseum.org/constitution-cam/> to see a live picture from the *Constitution*. In a side conversation, Peter also mentioned that *Constitution*’s nickname



USS Constitution in dry dock in Boston.

“Old Ironsides” is a bit misleading. The name was given to her based on her famous battle with the British ship *Guerriere*, when it was observed that cannon balls bounced off the sides of the *Constitution*. Peter explained that this was not because of superior design or the extra toughness of American oak. It was just because the *Guerriere* carried cannon that fired relatively lightweight shot with less penetrating power.

Minutes—Continued

years at the Naval Supersonic Laboratory and at the National Magnet Laboratory until retirement. Mat is a small-boat sailor and enjoys model boat building. **Al Persson** introduced his guest David Walsh who he met at a fitness center. David grew up in Wellesley and attended Georgetown University. Upon graduation David joined the Coast Guard Reserve and then went to work for International Paper Company in New York City. He attended Columbia Business School where he earned a Masters Degree in Business. From New York he and his wife moved to Wellesley at which time he managed a few small packaging companies. David has been on the Wellesley financial advisory committee and president of the Wellesley Club and enjoys fly fishing and tennis. **Jim Latimer** introduced his guest Dan Smythe who he met while a student at MIT. Dan is originally from Mississippi and attended MIT in 1958 where worked at Lincoln Laboratory and then at the MIT Haystack Observatory.

Paul Murphy called for traveler reports: **Dick Testa** and wife Peggy traveled to Ireland where Peggy's father's family is from. They flew to Dublin where they spent a few days and then took a bus to Galway where they were advised to pick up a few Galway Hookers (Beer). From Galway they went south to County Cork where they stopped in Killarney and visited Blarney Castle and the Blarney Stone. **Mike Patterson** visited Yosemite with his grandson who lives in California. They stayed at a resort just outside the park and upon starting their drive to the park in the morning there was bumper-to-bumper traffic getting into the park. They visited Bridal Veil Fall (with its many rainbows) and the base of El Capitan. Following that they hiked a trail along Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Mike felt that Yosemite is the greatest of all the national parks and if you are planning a visit, be sure to make your reservations well, well, in advance. **Dan Miller** and his wife traveled to Cortez Colorado where they had lived 45 years ago. The highlight of their trip was the nearby Mesa Verde National Park. Dan found this park to be spectacular and

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The Cigar Box Bulletin

P. O. Box 261

Wayland, MA 01778

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Thank You To Our Proof Readers

Yutaka Kobayashi,
Stan Wulf

*Published monthly by the Retired
 Men's Association of Weston,
 Wayland, Sudbury and
 surrounding communities.*

Minutes—Continued

highly recommended it. **Bob Johnson** and his wife traveled to Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Austria where they visited Budapest, Prague, Vienna, and Strasburg. Following that trip they went to a wedding in Newington, Connecticut. **Ulrich Beacker** took a trip to Zurich and Gallen Switzerland where saw his son and grandchildren. He then went to Germany to fix the waterworks in Hausen which was built in 1642. **Frank DiPace** traveled to Thailand for his wife's induction into the Taekwondo Hall of Fame. While in Thailand Frank and his wife visited a few temples which he was surprised to find were very ornate and extensive in size including a 50 foot long reclining Buddha.

Chris thanked the following Members for their contributions to the meeting:

Coffee – **Paul Sturgis**

Refreshments - Donuts Stop 'n Shop, Thank you – **John Iberg**

Badges – **Richard B. Smith**

Facilities – **Mike Sheff, Jim Latimer, Fred Jungalwala**

Reporting on the Minutes - **Bill Tafuri**

Reporting on the Speaker – **Jim Bright**

Bulletin – **Bob Diefenbacher, Koby Kobayashi, Stan Wulf, John McKinney**

Sound Equipment – **Ron Riggert**

Handling the microphone - **Paul Sturgis**

Slide Show – **Richard B. Smith**

Website – **Ken Mattes, Richard B. Smith, Bill Thompson, Bob Diefenbacher, Al Persson**

Photographer - **Art Phipps**

Members Support Help Line – **Al Persson**

Announcements:

Special guest Catherine L. Coleman, director of the Indian Hill Music School in Groton, MA, gave a short presentation on Indian Hill which is a community music school and performing arts venue hosting lessons, lectures, concerts and recitals. The school is for all ages and levels of interest

in music. Ms. Coleman invited RMA members to visit the school.

Chris thanked **Bill Ladoulis** for playing a music concert for **Frank Lyons** who has been ill.

Chris announced that Parmenter Community Health Care is having their annual fair at the Dora Ephrum Garden, 10 Green Way, Wayland, MA

Chris reminded members that our next meeting will be on Friday, October 11th.

Bob Malnati reminded members that the RMA Annual Dinner will be on Wednesday October 16th at 5 PM at the Marlborough Country Club. Bob asked all those who are signed up to please send in \$50 per person to the RMA, Box 261, Wayland, MA 01778. The dinner is almost fully booked, but can take three more couples at this time. Bob is looking for two couples to volunteer as greeters at the greeting table from 5:00 to 6:30. If you have a special meal request please let Bob know and the Country Club will try to accommodate your request. There will be a cash bar at the dinner which will accept credit cards and allow guests to run a tab. If anyone needs a ride to the dinner please let Bob know and he will try to arrange to have you picked up.

Chris announced that the Discussion Group will be meeting next Thursday, September 26th at Conrad's Restaurant, 120 Boston Post Road, Sudbury. The discussion topic will be "The Price of Prescription Drugs in the USA".

Doc Harrell announced that the RMA outing to the Paw-Sox game was a great success and he appreciated the participation of RMA members and their families. The next event that he is looking into is the American Heritage Museum, 568 Main Street, Hudson. The Heritage Museum includes many artifacts from American History from the Revolutionary War through 9/11 and the War on Terrorism. The price of admission is \$18 for seniors. The date of the tour will be in the near future and will be announced in the next week.

Jim Latimer announced the 10 member birthdays and the

Minutes—Continued

13 member anniversaries in September.

Bill Ely announced the passing of Jacquelyn Hays on 8/8, wife of **Bob Kagey** and Audrey Levington on 8/21, wife of **David Levington**. Bill also announced the passing of **Arnold Barnes** who had been on oxygen 24/7 for several years for lung problems. In addition he RMA received a note from **Bill Metz's** daughter that there will be a memorial celebration for her father on Sunday, October 20th from 11:30 to 3:30. It will be at the Wayside Inn for lunch. RMA members are invited to drop by and express their best wishes. **Ivan Lubash**, who was a member of the Sudbury Valley Trustees, also passed away.

Harold Wilkinson told several school related jokes to lighten the day.

Bill Ladoulis played two songs: "September Song" and "Try to Remember".

Bob Malnati announced that the ROMEO lunch will be at the Bella Costa Ristorante, 147 Cochituate Road Framingham, MA.

Costs Make Technical Schools More Popular

(NewsUSA) – It doesn't take a college degree to understand that a four-year education may not be the end-all and be-all it once was, according to a new survey of U.S. high school students. With rising costs for higher education, and the way it equates to a career, more high school students say costs will be a "deciding factor in which college they attend or whether they end up going at all," according to the Washington D.C.-based nonprofit College Savings Foundation.

The survey, which is in its 10th year, found that of the 500 students polled, this year saw the highest percentage (55 percent) say they are thinking about technical schools and career schools in the same way they look at traditional universities.

This is good news for technical schools (most notably transportation technology and repair), that to date have had trouble attracting students through their doors.

"There is more computer code in today's cars than there was used to put a man on the moon," says Jennifer Maher, chief executive officer of the TechForce Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports students through their education into successful careers as professional technicians. "These are skilled, well-paying, technical jobs."

"To put this into perspective, according to Motor Authority, a Ford GT has more than 10 million lines of code and the new Ford F150 pickup has more than 150 million lines of code. Compare that to the shuttle's primary flight software, which contains approximately 400,000 lines of code, and it becomes easy to see the necessity of skilled technicians and the job security the industry represents.

According to data from the 2020 AutoCare FactBook, the auto care industry added approximately 41,500 jobs in 2018, and automotive repair and maintenance showed the greatest increase in average hourly wages among technician jobs from 2009 to 2018. More good news: The demand for skilled technicians continues to rise as older technicians retire. Additionally, those numbers increase as technicians move into other industries, and new positions open up. To this point, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the replacement rate plus the growth rate will translate to 78,200 per year from 2016 to 2026. TechForce's publicity campaign, "Because I'm a Tech," encourages technicians to share their stories about how they have succeeded in skilled technician careers. Some of their comments: "I bought my first house at age 27;" "I get to do something I love every day;" "I have a good work/life balance and have time for my hobbies."

"To that end, you can check out Tech Force's "Get Hands On" **video contest** that is part of its current campaign.

To see how beneficial a technical career can be, [click here](#). Technician jobs can be an ideal alternative for many nontraditional learners who can think outside the box, and who enjoy working with their hands and solving problems. Plus, there's the fact that technicians can learn their skills as soon as two years after high school and put them to use right away without the time and expense of a traditional, four-year college degree.

TechForce's FutureTech Roadmap to the transportation technology career highlights some of the traits that make for well-paid, successful technicians and how parents and stu-

Technical School—Continued

dents can identify these valuable skills.

Middle School: Sixth graders to eighth graders who like to tinker; those who fix the wobbly bike wheel or design the winning car in the scouts' soapbox derby, may benefit from a technical school rather than a traditional college education. **High School:** The high schooler who helps design and build the sets for the school play may be the next great technician. Also, students with diagnoses of ADHD who learn best with hands-on lessons and struggle with lengthy, desk-bound assignments are ideally suited to many technician careers.

Post-Secondary School: High school graduates with a strong interest in science and technology can launch fulfilling careers with training at an ASE-certified program. The more certifications and degrees earned, the higher the tech's earning potential from future employers.

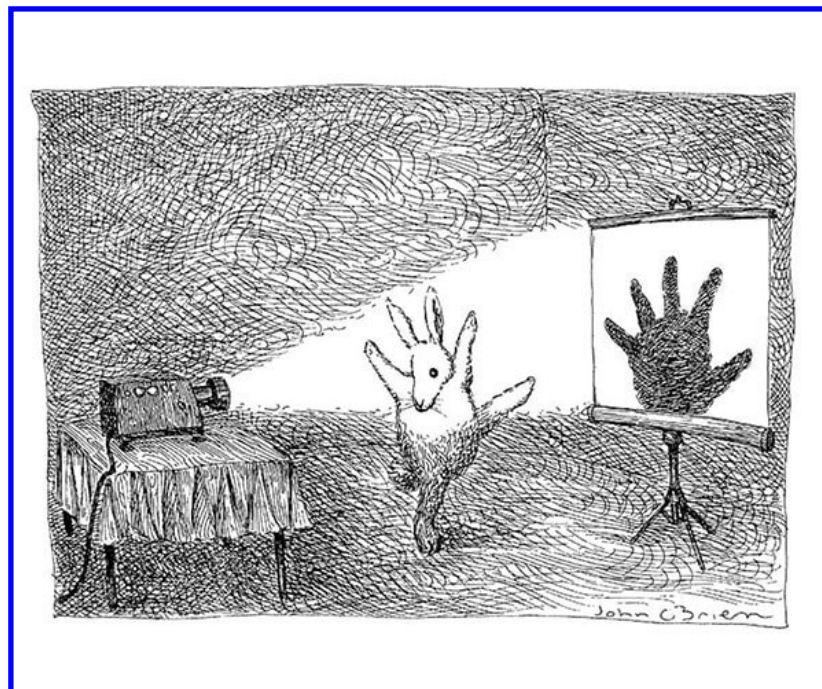
For more information about pathways to rewarding careers as transportation technicians, visit Techforce.org

Laugh Time...

Two men are fishing in a boat under a bridge and see a funeral procession starting across the bridge. One of the men stands up, takes off his cap and bows his head. The procession crosses the bridge, and the man puts on his cap, picks up his rod and reel and continues fishing.

His friend says, "That was touching. I didn't know you had it in you."

He responds, "Well, I guess it was the right thing to do -- after all, I was married to her for 40 years."



Anniversaries in September

Member		Spouse	Anniv.	Yrs.
Larry	Vifquain	Carol	09/15/2012	7
Jorgen	Hansen	Debbie	09/06/1987	32
Jeffery	Levine	Alice	09/26/1970	49
A. Bradford	Conant	Mary	09/03/1966	53
Joseph	Kerr	Carole	09/19/1965	54
George P.	Santos	Dorothea	09/09/1963	56
Paul	Motyka	Patricia	09/29/1962	57
Edwin E.	Larsen	Betty	09/09/1961	58
Richard	Davison	Sheila	09/02/1959	60
Michael	Patterson	Kay	09/13/1957	62
Joseph D.	Bausk	Jacqui	09/15/1956	63
John	Blair	Connie	09/10/1955	64
Russell V.	Fraleigh	Jill	09/15/1953	66

Average Years Married—52



Birthdays in September

Member		Birthday	Age
Chris	Hagger	09/05/1951	68
Ray	LaFrance	09/17/1948	71
Robert	Johnson	09/24/1941	78
T. Nelson	Baker III	09/17/1937	82
H. Ronald	Riggert	09/14/1937	82
Barry	David	09/22/1934	85
J. Stanley	Waugh	09/30/1932	87
Gail V.	Drake	09/25/1930	89
Eugene	Piazza	09/20/1930	89
George J.	Wiedenbauer	09/17/1930	89

Average Age— 82



Only 4 spaces left!

2019 ANNUAL DINNER INVITATION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019
5:PM COCKTAILS, 6:PM DINNER
MARLBOROUGH COUNTRY CLUB
200 CONCORD RD. MARLBOROUGH MASS.

TICKETS ARE \$50 per person, checks to RMA
Mail to RMA Box 261, Wayland MA ,01778
Or, give check to Bob Malnati, Merrill Mack or Larry Vlfquain
Contact Bob at RandRmalnati@gmail.com

RMA Bulletin Board



American History Museum Tour Friday October 4

Museum Fee is \$18/person

Opens at 10:00 am

Meet on Location

If you need a ride to and from the museum, please contact Doc Harrell at 978-869-3073.

At the American Heritage Museum you explore America's conflicts, beginning with the Revolutionary War to today. You'll discover, and interact with, our heritage through the History, the national effort developing new technologies of warfare, and the Human Impact of America's fight to preserve the freedom we all hold dear.

The American Heritage Museum is housed in a 65,000 + square foot building located at the Collings Foundation's headquarters in Stow, Massachusetts. The concept of the American Heritage Museum began when the Foundation was selected to receive the massive collection of tanks, armored vehicles and military artifacts from the family of Jacques M. Littlefield in 2013.



Enjoy Fall!

A Members Support Help Line. This is intended to help members or their spouses who are in need of assistance. This could include rides to meetings or helping members in other ways as needed. **Contact Al Persson at 781-235-6910.**

Please mail your check (\$50/person) for the Annual Dinner **today** to:

R.M.A.
Box 261
Wayland, MA 01778

Auto de Fe

An Auto de Fe or act of faith was a combination of a religious ceremony and a public event staged by the church to publicly announce the transgressions of heretics and pass sentence on them.

The practice occurred largely during the Spanish Inquisition but began in Rome with Pope Innocent III and Pope Gregory IX in the thirteenth century for the purpose of combating heretical groups. Such groups were very prevalent at the time.

In 1474, Isabella of Castile married Ferdinand of Aragon. This united the northern two-thirds of Spain. Ferdinand was a weak leader and Isabella a strong Queen.

Before this, the three groups who lived in Southern Spain, Christians, Jews and Moors (Muslims), had lived in peace for 700 years.

Queen Isabella forced all those who were not practicing Christians to convert or leave Spain. Many of those who chose to stay often continued to practice their original religion in secret.

The Spanish Inquisition was created to investigate people and publicly punish those found guilty of still practicing their own religion.

The purpose of the Inquisition was to "cleanse" the faith and at the same time demonstrate the power of the Church. The Inquisition started in Seville in 1481 and ended in Mexico in 1850. Records indicate that close to 32,000 people were executed by burning at the stake.

Many of the charges arose as prisoners were tortured and forced to name other heretics. The Inquisition's purpose was to determine if religious acts had been committed against the church, and not to determine if people had broken civil laws. These tribunals tried people for sins instead of ordinary crimes.

Most of the people condemned in Spain were former Jews or Moors. In Mexico, the Inquisition executed (?) mainly people of Spanish origin. Instead of executing the local natives and blacks, the Inquisition punished them by whipping.



In 1649, a very elaborate Auto de Fe was held in Mexico City. All the local secular leaders both Spanish and Native attended. Several reports written at the time indicate that 40,000 people attended this ceremony.

A parade was followed by the reading of a sermon by the Bishop. An official read from a list of the sins committed by the condemned and a pronouncement of the punishments.

Each condemned person had a confessor who stayed with their assigned prisoner during the Auto de Fe. The confessors tried to get those charged as a heretic to repent in order to avoid execution. The accused had to repent before the reading of the sentence. A condemned person who repented and promised to correct their erring ways would be saved. After the sentences were read, the

condemned were turned over to the civil authorities. Instead of execution, the punishment in many cases would be imprisonment and confiscation of property.

If they repented after the sentence was read, they would be killed, usually by garroting, before being burned at the stake.

Those who did not repent were burned alive. The Church passed judgment as to guilt and determined the punishment. The civil authorities carried out the punishment.

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" John (15:6)

Although those carrying out the Inquisition had plenty of scripture references to support their activities, it is hard to associate the principles of "love thy neighbor" and "turn the other cheek" with such barbarous activities.

By Al Persson



**R.M.A.
Box 261
Wayland, MA 01778**

First Class Mail

Next Meeting

Friday, October 11

Web site RMenA.org

E-mail info@RmenA.org



RMA Meeting: Friday, October 11, 10:00 am

MEMA Disaster Recovery

Chris Besse. Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency



Chris Besse from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency is getting ready for September which is Preparedness Month. Chris will walk us behind the scenes to the preparations and mobilizations. As MEMA's Social Media and Public Information Coordinator .

Chris is responsible for managing MEMA's website and social media platforms, promoting emergency preparedness, and providing residents of the state with accurate and timely emergency and disaster information. During MEMA emergency activations such as the 2015 record breaking winter storms, the Boston Marathon Bombings, the February 2013 Blizzard, and Hurricane Sandy, Chris has served as the deputy public information officer responsible for providing information to the public through social media messaging, MEMA's website, traditional media and other public alerting and warning systems.

Bring a Guest to this Meeting!