

# 14<sup>th</sup> New England Regional Genealogical Conference



26-29 April 2017

Springfield, MA

E-zine 1

## Welcome to NERGC 2017!

The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC) invites you to join us at our fourteenth conference 26-29 April 2017 at the MassMutual Convention Center in Springfield. The Convention Center offers outstanding facilities, amenities and service in the heart of historic Springfield. The Conference Hotels (both within one block of the Convention Center) are the Springfield Marriott and Springfield Sheraton (Monarch Place). They will have rooms available from Tuesday evening through Sunday night at the conference rate.

The Conference Committee is planning on special tracks and other events on Wednesday, regular conference presentations on Thursday through Saturday, as well as the Exhibit Hall, Ancestors Road Show, Society Fair, and other events including a historical tour of Springfield.

The purpose of the E-zine is to keep you up-to-date on the planning and the excitement of this conference BUILT FOR YOU.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Presentation proposals are welcome from now **until 12:00 noon on 1 March 2016** for the 14th New England Regional Genealogical Conference to be held 26-29 April 2017 in Springfield, Massachusetts. NERGC 2017 will have the following formats for presentations:

- Lectures during the conference or for presentations in a Wednesday "Day" track are one hour each, including questions and answers.
- Workshops (Wednesday only) are two to three hour presentations on any genealogy topic.
- Wednesday "Days" are one-day tracks with one-hour lectures devoted to particular topics:
- Workshops (Thursday-Saturday) are two-hour interactive events for the technology classroom.

The full Call for Papers is available on the NERGC Web page, [www.NERGC.org](http://www.NERGC.org).

## TWO WIN FREE REGISTRATION

There were two opportunities to win a free registration for NERGC 2017:

1. Winner of the "Suggest the 2017 Conference Theme" contest: **Amanda Perrine** of Syracuse, N.Y.
2. Winner chosen randomly from everyone who completed the online survey: **John Keating** of Dennis, Massachusetts.

Find us on Facebook at  
<https://www.Facebook.com/NERGC>

To sign up for the E-zine, please contact  
Richard Roberts: [RCR1861@Gmail.com](mailto:RCR1861@Gmail.com) and  
use "Subscribe NERGC E-zine" as the  
subject of the message.

### **Introducing the Conference Tri-Chairs**

**Mary Ellen Grogan** is a professional genealogist living in Boston, who specializes in Massachusetts and Irish genealogical and historical records. She has both colonial New England and Irish ancestry and has done significant work on both types of records. She is President of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council and was Exhibit Hall Chair for NERGC 2015.

Mary Ellen is the Vice-Regent and Membership Chair of the Paul Revere Chapter of the DAR. She has actively researched Irish records since 1984 and has led research tours in Ireland. She was also involved in the organization of the Gentech and FGS conferences in Boston.

**Seema Kenney** dove back in to genealogy in 2009 when her children were all in college. She attended, and volunteered at, her first NERGC in 2011 in Springfield and served as the Chair for TechDay for 2013 and 2015. Seema is an officer for MSOG, NEAPG, and NERGC. In exploring her New England roots, Seema is also a member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, and the Maine Genealogical Society. Contact: [Owner@Seema-ABLE.com](mailto:Owner@Seema-ABLE.com)

**Dave Robison** is the owner of Old Bones Genealogy of New England. Other than client work, he teaches, lectures and coaches genealogy and family research from beginner to advanced levels. He is certificate holder from BU's Genealogy Research Program, the VP of the Western Mass Genealogical Society, a past president of the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and holds memberships in multiple genealogical associations in the US and Canada.

### **Conference Theme**

In keeping with our Conference theme, "Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past," and with over 95 lectures to choose from in two and-a-half days and target audience levels ranging from beginner to expert, NERGC 2017 will address:

- New England's repositories (archives, libraries, historical societies).
- Understanding and analyzing genealogy records on paper and online.
- Successful research planning and project implementation.
- New research methodologies and strategies, including technology and techniques.
- Genealogy research focused within social, cultural, racial, or ethnic groups.
- Family history writing and publishing in print and on the web.
- Technology: the Cloud, social media, high tech solutions, and apps for genealogy, what's new on the Web;
- Social and cultural history related to genealogy;
- What to do when there is no vital record;
- New uses of sources (such as religious, civil, cemetery, military, and newspapers);
- Photography & Heirlooms;
- Engaging our Youth.

### **TECH DAY IS BACK!**

Tech Day will be held on Wednesday, 26 April 2017. This event is geared to an audience that is tech-savvy. It provides demonstrations of intermediate and advanced-level technology for genealogical research and writing. More basic technology topics are covered in the general conference program.

### **LIBRARIANS' DAY**

Librarians' Day will be held on Wednesday, 26 April 2017. The day will be devoted to showing how genealogy can attract new visitors and how to highlight collections and enhance curricula. This program informs professionals about ways genealogy can serve them in their dual roles as curators of their unique collections and as ambassadors of genealogy resources for their schools and libraries. All librarians and teachers who work with family history patrons or genealogy-related research materials will benefit from this special event.

## 2017 Featured Speakers

**In this issue we introduce the first of our NERGC 2017 Featured Speakers.**

### **Thomas MacEntee**



What happens when a “tech guy” with a love for history gets laid off during The Great Recession of 2008? You get Thomas MacEntee, a genealogy professional based in the United States who is also a blogger, educator, author, social media connector, online community builder and more.

Thomas was laid off after a 25-year career in the information technology field, so he started his own genealogy-related business called [High Definition Genealogy](#). He also created an online community of over 3,000 family history bloggers known as [GeneaBloggers](#). His most recent endeavor, [Hack Genealogy](#), is an attempt to “re-purpose today’s technology for tomorrow’s genealogy.”

Thomas describes himself as a lifelong learner with a background in a multitude of topics who has finally figured out what he does best: teach, inspire, instigate, and serve as a curator and go-to-guy for concept nurturing and inspiration. Thomas is a big believer in success, and that we all succeed when we help each other find success

### **WHAT IS NERGC?**

While many think of NERGC as a Conference, it is really much more. Formed 26 years ago to bring cutting-edge genealogical education to New England family historians, the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc., has produced thirteen conferences, meeting in every New England state at least once. The most recent Conference, held in 2015 in Providence, RI, was attended by 874 genealogists from more than twenty states and Canada. Each Conference is made possible by many hours of work by volunteers from the Consortium’s Participating Societies. For 2017, those societies are:

[American-Canadian Genealogical Society](#)  
[American French Genealogical Society](#)  
[Cape Cod Genealogical Society](#)  
[Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society](#)  
[Connecticut Ancestry Society, Inc.](#)  
[Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council](#)

[Connecticut Society of Genealogists](#)  
[Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor](#)  
[Falmouth Genealogical Society](#)  
[Genealogical Society of Vermont](#)  
[Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston](#)  
[Maine Genealogical Society](#)  
[Massachusetts Genealogical Council](#)  
[Massachusetts Society of Genealogists](#)  
[Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants](#)  
[New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists](#)  
[New England Historic Genealogical Society](#)  
[New Hampshire Society of Genealogists](#)  
[Plymouth County Genealogists, Inc.](#)  
[Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast](#)  
[Rhode Island Genealogical Society](#)  
[South Shore Genealogical Society](#)  
[The Irish Ancestral Research Association](#)  
[Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society](#)

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT

What will you do on Wednesday night if you come in early to attend the Wednesday tracks or be here to be ready for an early Thursday morning? You will come to the Opening Night Reception! It is being hosted by the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History (<https://springfieldmuseums.org>) and sponsored by American Ancestors, aka The New England Historic Genealogical Society (<http://www.americanancestors.org>). There will be light refreshments, a cash bar, an opportunity to meet and mingle with your fellow genealogists, and tours of the museum collections and the History Library and Archives. What more could a genealogist want!



The Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History is known for its local history research facilities, and its wide ranging collections illuminating the history of the Connecticut River Valley. The Indian Motorcycle (sic) Collection is the largest collection of Indian cycles and memorabilia in the world. The Firearms Collection includes more than 1600 firearms, with the largest collection of Smith & Wesson guns in the world, "John Brown, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War" exhibit and Hasbro GameLand will keep everyone busy.

The Library and Archives has a large collection of French Canadian records, the Loisele Index, over 20,000 genealogy books, 6,000 microforms, 25,000 photos and 1.3 million archival documents, as well as diaries, deeds, account books, land transfer documents and photographs.

## SOCIETY FAIR 2017

Calling genealogical, family and historical societies. Thursday, April 27, 2017. New time, new set-up.

You will be able to display your publications, seek new members, and network with NERGC attendees and other Society Fair participants. All for free--\$0.

Stay tuned for more information. If you want to participate, or have questions, please email Phyllis Day, Society Fair Chair at [phyl@cape.com](mailto:phyl@cape.com).