

14th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



26-29 April 2017
Springfield, MA

E-zine 4 October 2016

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 the heart of historic Springfield, Massachusetts. Registration for NERGC 2017 won't begin until the end of this month, but you can start making plans now. Continue to follow our E-zines to keep up-to-date on the planning and the excitement of this conference.

CONVENTION CENTER

The MassMutual Center is conveniently located in downtown Springfield, Massachusetts, a venue that combines the best of big-city accessibility and services with small-town hospitality and affordability. Springfield is easily reached from two major interstate highways and Bradley International Airport, which is just twenty minutes from the convention center. You can discover a rich array of dining choices, cultural attractions including some of the finest museums in the country, world-class entertainment, famous college towns, historic villages, and short excursions to the rest of New England. Best of all, first-class hotel rooms, restaurants, and special attractions are all within walking distance of the MassMutual Center.

CONFERENCE HOTELS

We are offering a choice of two collaborating conference hotels:

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place
One Monarch Place, Springfield, MA 01144

Springfield Marriott.
2 Boland Way, Springfield, MA 01115

For more information, see
<http://www.nergc.org/hotel-and-convention-center/>

SPEAKER ANNOUNCED FOR OPENING SESSION



We're happy to announce that that Mary Tedesco of PBS *Genealogy Roadshow* fame will be the speaker at our opening session. Mary's warm personality and sense of humor are bound to be present when she discusses "What Our Ancestors Can Teach Us About Genealogy." Did genealogists of the past have any idea what the future had in store for them? Were their predictions about genealogy accurate or off base? Mary Tedesco takes a lighthearted look at genealogical forecasts that anticipated the "tools of today."

Mary Tedesco is a professional genealogist, speaker, and author; a Host on the popular PBS television series "Genealogy Roadshow;" and the Founder of ORIGINS ITALY, a firm specializing in Italian genealogical research.

NERGC thanks the New England Historical Genealogy Society for their sponsorship of this event.

NERGC 2017 Program News, Installment 1

The Technology Classroom – Just What Our Attendees Ordered

If you've attended NERGC before, you know that we take our evaluations seriously. Every session is evaluated using feedback from the attendees.

One of the highlights across the board in the evaluations from 2015 is that people had trouble keeping up with all the websites mentioned in the presentations. They asked us for programs that would lead them through the many genealogy web resources.

In direct response to this need, we've developed an entirely new type of presentation for 2017, our Technology Classroom. The MassMutual Center's Room 5 will be set up in classroom style, i.e., with tables for attendees to rest their laptops or tablets on. The classroom will have dedicated wifi for better downloading of websites by up to 90 people at a time. Plus, we integrated this classroom into the regular Thursday to Saturday tracks and lectures. During any lecture period, you can pick the lecture in the Technology Classroom or a lecture in any other room or track. There is no added cost. Let our presenters be your guide to using these genealogy websites.

We've selected all kinds of topics for the classroom. One or more of them are bound to be pertinent to you. Lecturers will lead you through aspects of Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, various DNA sites, specific ethnic topics (Finnish research is one), and many how-to topics. There are thirteen lectures in total using this wonderful new approach.

Make sure to charge your laptop or tablet before attending. One thing we couldn't do is supply all those extra charging stations. We prioritized bandwidth because we know you all love speedy downloads.

The classroom is limited to about 90 people, so make sure to get to Room 5 early for a seat.

Saturday Features our African-American Track

We are very pleased to announce that keynote speaker Kenyatta Berry will present three lectures in our Saturday African-American genealogy track. Kenyatta will lead off the day with an introductory speech. Later, she will use her legal background to discuss how laws from slavery, Reconstruction, and the Jim Crow era impact our research; and how to break through the daunting barrier of slavery. In addition, Diane Richard and Diahna Southard will fill out the track with information on the Freedmen's Bureau Records and on using DNA.

Session	Level	Lecture -	Speaker
301	Beginner	An Introduction to African American Genealogy -	Kenyatta D. Berry
309	Intermediate	Freedman's Bureau Records: Invaluable To All Southern Research -	Diane Richard
318	Intermediate	One Drop of Blood: What Old Laws Mean to Today's African-American Genealogist	Kenyatta D. Berry
325	Beginner	Your DNA and Your Origins-	Diahna Southard
332	Intermediate	Your Enslaved Ancestors: Breaking through the 1870 Barrier	Kenyatta D. Berry

Become an Official NERGC 2017 Blogger

You can be part of our virtual "press corps" spreading the word about NERGC, before, during, and after the conference. Official NERGC Bloggers will post interviews with our speakers or blog about the resources around the conference venue, and generally spread the word leading up to the conference. During the conference, you will have access to a designated blogger area and of course, share the official Blogger Beads. Send your blog address and a brief bio to info@NERGC.org. If approved, you will have access to the Official NERGC Blogger Badge for your blog, and your posts will be linked to the NERGC web page. Contact us today, and let's get started sharing our excitement about this vibrant regional conference!

WEDNESDAY EVENTS

In addition to the three-day conference (27-29 April 2017), **Wednesday 26 April** is packed with pre-conference activities! Choose from the following options to expand your conference experience:

BUS TOUR

Interested to learn more about where you can do genealogical research in Western Massachusetts? A Bus Tour of significant genealogical sites in the greater Springfield area will be held Wednesday, April 26, 2017 from 10am to 2pm with stops at the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Room at the Forbes Genealogical Library, Springfield Armory Museum (est. 1777 by George Washington), and Springfield Cemetery, which has burials dating to the late 1600s. You can return to any of these sites on your own for research during your time in Springfield. **Cost:** \$35; lunch available on your own at the Irish Cultural Center "Pub", which will have a collection of artifacts and books on display. Watch for more details and registration information in future E-zines.

BEGINNING DNA DAY

NERGC's First Beginning DNA Day will be held on Wednesday, 26 April 2017, 8at the Mass Mutual Center, Springfield Massachusetts. Beginning DNA Day provides the opportunity for genealogists to review topics that are focused on a DNA oriented audience and might not otherwise be included in a general conference trying to reach a broad audience. The cost is \$50.00 per person for four seminars, a lunch presentation, and a luncheon sponsored by FamilyTree DNA (FTDNA).

LIBRARIANS' AND LOCAL HISTORIANS' DAY

This special program for librarians and local historians will be held on Wednesday, 26 April 2017. All librarians and local historians who work with family historians or with genealogy related research materials will benefit from this special event. A Certificate of Continuing Education is available on request depending on the attendee's home state. The cost is \$40.00 per person and includes lunch compliments of ProQuest.

PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGY DAY

NERGC's first Professional Genealogy Day will be held on Wednesday, 26 April 2017, 8:45 A.M. – 4:00 P.M., at the MassMutual Convention Center in Springfield Massachusetts. This provides a venue for items that are focused on the needs of a professional audience.

TECHNOLOGY DAY

NERGC's Third Tech Day will be held on Wednesday, 26 April 2017 at the Mass Mutual Center, Springfield, Massachusetts. The 2017 event will offer two tracks – Research with Technology and Advanced Tools. Tech Day provides the opportunity for genealogists to review items that are focused on a technically oriented audience and might not otherwise be included in a general conference trying to reach a broad audience.

SOCIETY MANAGEMENT DAY

For the first time, we're offering a special Track geared toward society leaders, members, and those interested in making societies thrive and grow. Meet other society leaders, discuss your situations, and learn from the presenters.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are always offered as part of the conference experience at NERGC. These are 2-hour sessions to a limited size audience with an opportunity for more hands-on work than the traditional 1-hour presentation. Because of the space available, we are offering a few workshops on Wednesday. While all workshops have their own admission cost, those on Wednesday **DO NOT** require conference registration to attend!

WEDNESDAY EVENING NERGC @ MOSH

Join us for a fun and informative social evening at the Lyman & Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History and Archives (which the locals refer to as "MOSH". The event will take place in the "Great Hall". Refreshments will include cheese, fruit, hors d'oeuvres, and mini dessert pastries with a cash bar. All attendees will be treated to a private tour of the museum facilities and the enormous collection stored in the archives in the lower level of the building. The Library and Archives holds a large collection of French Canadian records, the Loiselle 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, some of which date back to 1636 and the founding of Springfield by William Pynchon.

PLACE AN AD IN THE CONFERENCE SYLLABUS



Support the NERGC conference. There is still time to place an ad in the April 2017 conference syllabus. Ads are due before November 15, 2016, and details concerning cost and how to submit an ad can be found on page 3 of E-zine #3, <http://www.nergc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NERGC-2017-Ezine3.pdf>. In addition to placing ads with details about your society, your publications, or the services you offer, you are welcome to submit an ad congratulating a society or association that has reached a particular milestone.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Interesting sponsorship opportunities are still available; see <http://www.nergc.org/sponsor-or-advertise/> or contact Seema Kenney at NERGC@Seema-ABLE.com for more information.

CALL FOR CONSULTANTS FOR THE ANCESTORS ROAD SHOW

The Ancestors Road Show is the place for giving or getting help. Conference attendees will have a chance to have a free 20 minute consult with a professional genealogist. If you are interested in volunteering as a consultant, please contact Jennifer Zinck (jenzinck@gmail.com).

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONSORTIUM, INC. DONNA HOLT SIEMIATKOSKI AWARD

Deadline for nominations for the 2017 Award is Saturday, 5 November 2016

For the complete call, see <http://www.nergc.org/volunteer-award/>.

Send nominations for the 2017 Award by Saturday, 5 November 2016 to:

John Leppman - 20 Thwing Lane - Bellows Falls, VT 05101 or jleppman@sover.net

(include "NERGC DHS Award" in the subject line).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Did you know that NERGC's conference is a totally volunteer-run event? We're currently looking for additional volunteers to help with pre-conference work on Workshops, the Exhibit Hall, and Sponsorships. Contact Seema Kenney at NERGC@Seema-ABLE.com for more information. *We'll be publishing additional roles you can volunteer for in future E-zines and on the NERGC Web page, so keep an eye out for a way to be a major part of this great event.*

BE AN EXHIBITOR!

Is your organization or business interested in renting a booth in NERGC's Exhibit Hall? The Exhibit Hall will be open for three days -- Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Exhibitor move-in is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26 from 3:00-8:00 pm and evening and early in the morning on Thursday. Breakdown is after the Exhibit Hall closes at 4:00 pm on Saturday. In addition to some 70 booths, there will be an open area at the rear for food and get-togethers.

Each initial booth costs \$120 for NERGC Member Societies, \$170 for others. All additional booths for an exhibitor will be \$120. The booth space can be configured as needed by the exhibitor. Utilities (electricity, internet, telephone, etc.) are available for an additional fee. See <http://www.nergc.org/exhibitors/>, which includes links to forms to learn more and to apply for booth space. Questions? Send an email to Dave@OldBones.info.

SOCIETY FAIR 2017

Come one, come all to the NERGC Society Fair on Thursday, April 27, 2017, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There's still room if your group would like to take part. We're especially interested in Western Massachusetts, Eastern Connecticut, and Southern Vermont groups that might like to join in. If any of you have a contact in family, genealogical, or historical societies from that area, please invite them to take part in this great networking event. Don't forget it's free! Each organization receives a 6' x 2' table, two chairs, and signage. You supply your handouts, etc. You can get more information or register by contacting Phyllis Day, Society Fair Chair at Phyl@Meganet.net.

ATTENTION LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND MUSEUMS!

Help us make history. All NEW! Calling Libraries, Archives, and Museums that have special collections that would be of interest to genealogists and researchers. This is a perfect opportunity to take those family papers or collections off the shelves and bring them out to share with interested folks. Two days -- pick one -- Friday, April 28th or Saturday, April 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for \$0. That's right, it's free. Each exhibitor receives a 6' x 2' table, two chairs, and signage. There will also be free advertising for your collection before and during the Conference. You can get more information or register by contacting Phyllis Day, Libraries and Archives Chair, at Phyl@Meganet.net.

WANT TO RECEIVE THE E-ZINE?

To sign up for the E-zine, please contact Richard Roberts: RCR1861@gmail.com and use "Subscribe NERGC E-zine" as the subject of the message.

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