

14th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



26-29 April 2017
Springfield, MA

E-zine 5 November 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. Continue to follow our E-zines to keep up-to-date on the planning and the excitement of this conference.

REGISTRATION FOR NERGC 2017 IS NOW OPEN!

The 20-page 2017 NERGC conference brochure is available [here](#). It contains the full conference schedule, summaries of lectures, speaker biographies and information on available luncheons, banquets, research tour and special events. Register online [here](#). To register by postal mail, see the last page of the brochure.

CONFERENCE HOTELS

NERGC has special rates at two hotels close to the MassMutual Center.

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place

One Monarch Place, Springfield, MA 01144

Springfield Marriott

2 Boland Way, Springfield, MA 01115

Check [here](#) for details.

Rooms in both hotels are going fast, so be sure to make your reservation soon.

A WORD FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee is getting ready to welcome you to Springfield! Located adjacent to the Visitors' Bureau table, we'll be there to help you find local restaurants, banks or ATMs, and other amenities while at the conference. We'll have coupons and special offers for conference attendees, as well as information about hours and locations of the local research repositories featured on Wednesday's Bus Tour. Check out our [Hospitality page](#) at the NERGC website for more information and regular updates, and when you're at the conference, be sure to stop by!

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.

Do you have needs related to meals, mobility, hearing, or vision which might affect your ability to fully participate in NERGC 2017?

Now that the brochures are available for NERGC 2017 and the online registration process is open, it is the time for you take advantage of the coordination assistance NERGC provides to persons with "Mobility, Hearing and Vision Needs" and the opportunity to make known any special "Dietary Needs" you may have.

For those of you using mail in registration, note the two comment boxes where you can list your needs on the last page of the brochure.

For those of you doing online registration, use the two comment boxes in the personal information section of the registration to note your needs.

NERGC's meals coordinator will make sure your dietary needs are passed on to the MassMutual Center staff, and Pam Roberts (ADA Coordination Chair) will contact you directly to provide you with the resources about access to area transportation, equipment, assistive hearing devices, special seating options and other accommodations you may need.

If you are still considering the feasibility of attending and you are unsure about the needs you may encounter, we invite you to discuss your needs NOW, BEFORE you register. Feel free to [email](mailto:info@NERGC.org) Pamela Roberts, PT, EdD. or call her at 860-486-2406. Dr. Roberts is a trained ADA evaluator and physical therapist with 40 years of experience who has volunteered her expertise to collect and share local resources for your pre-planning purposes and will interface with other volunteers and the hotels to help make your experience the best it can be.

Note: Registrants with special meal requirement and/or mobility, hearing or visual special needs as outlined in the American with Disabilities Act must detail those requirement in writing to NERGC by March 15, 2017.

NERGC 2017'S OFFICIAL BLOGGER PROGRAM

We have already had five bloggers apply for the Official Blogger Program for NERGC 2017, and there is room for many more! If you would like to apply for this virtual "press corps" please send your name, blog address and a brief bio to info@NERGC.org

Perks of our program? A chance to interview a NERGC 2017 speaker, access to photos by the official photographer, access to the Official NERGC blogger badge for your website and social media, have your blog linked to the NERGC website, blog, and eZine, and best of all – blogger beads!

Requirements? Interview at least one speaker or workshop leader for a pre-conference blog post, and provide at least one blog post during the conference. Please follow the NERGC social media policy, which we will provide to you before the conference.

NERGC 2017 Program News, Installment 2

Are you ethnically diverse or focused on a specific ethnicity in your genealogical research?

Here's a quick look at some of the ethnically oriented presentations that are in the program for NERGC 2017:

French-Canadian Genealogy: Getting Started with Margaret Fortier

Jewish Names and Eastern European Locations: Who the Heck is Ida Gaskell? With Meredith Hoffman

Finding your **French-Canadian Immigrant Origins** in Europe with Michael Leclerc

Where was your Ancestor Really from? **Germany's** Shifting Borders with F. Warren Bittner

Mapping **Irish** Locations Online with Pamela Guye Holland

French-Canadian Immigrants & Catholic Sacramental Records with Denise Picard Lindgren

Introduction to **Polish** & Eastern European Family History – Jonathan Shea

Jumping the Pond: Finding the Origins of Your **Irish** Ancestor with Donna Moughty

Beyond Repertoires and Indexes: Finding and Using Original Documents in **French-Canadian** Research with Michael Leclerc

Overcoming Brick Walls in **Eastern European** Research with Liza Also

Ukrainian Genealogy with Michelle Chubenko

Introduction to **African American** Genealogy with Kenyatta D. Berry

Portuguese Research Workshop with Michael Hall

Researching **Finns** with Diane Richard

Italian Genealogy Demystified Workshop with Mary Tedesco

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SOME OF OUR SPECIAL WEDNESDAY EVENTS

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

TOUR OF SPRINGFIELD GENEALOGICAL SITES

NERGC registrants are invited to enroll in the special bus tour of Springfield-area genealogical research sites on Wednesday, April 26, 2017. The Tour will visit: the Forbes Library in Northampton, the Irish Cultural Center in West Springfield, the Springfield Armory, and the large colonial-era Springfield Cemetery; the Tour will leave the Mass Mutual Center at 10:00 AM and return at 2:00 PM. Lunch on-your-own will be available during the stop at the Irish Cultural Center. NERGC attendees will find out the many strengths of these collections so that they could return there for research during the rest of the conference. (Separately, the opening Reception on Wednesday evening will take place at the Springfield Archives, which is also another excellent research site for a visit during the rest of the conference time.) The Tour cost is \$35 per person and space is limited; you may register and pay using the regular NERGC Conference Registration Form under "Tour". Anyone with questions may contact David Martin at davidchina_2000@yahoo.com. Deadline for Tour registration is February 28, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGIST DAY

NERGC's first Professional Genealogy Day, sponsored by Excelsior College, 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. Sessions include Get Paid for Your Passion: Setting Rates by Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, CGL; Time Management: Balancing the Demands of Many "Clients" by Angela Packer McGhie, CG; Organizing Research Results in Writing by Catherine Wiest Desmarais, CG; and Genetic Genealogy for Professional Genealogists by Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD. Cost for the day is \$40 and includes lunch, courtesy of Excelsior College and door prizes from GRIP and Virtual Institute.

BEGINNING DNA DAY

NERGC's First Beginning DNA Day, sponsored by Family Tree DNA, will be held on Wednesday, 26 April 2017, 8:45 AM - 4:00 P.M. at the Mass Mutual Center, Springfield Massachusetts. It will feature four presentations: Understanding DNA for Genealogy by Jim Brewster; Fundamentals of Autosomal DNA by Blaine T. Bettinger; Advancing Your Research with DNA Group Projects by Janine Cloud, and Five Tips to Make Sense of Your DNA Testing by Diahn Southard. Cost for the day is \$40.00 per person for four seminars, a lunch presentation, and a luncheon sponsored by FamilyTree DNA (FTDNA).

CURT WITCHER IS THE FEATURED SPEAKER FOR LIBRARIANS AND LOCAL HISTORIANS DAY

Librarians and Local Historical Historians Day will be held 8:45 AM - 4:00 PM on Wednesday, 26 April 2017. The cost is \$40.00 per person and includes lunch compliments of ProQuest.

Curt B. Witcher, Manager of the legendary Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library, will share his expertise in two presentations. In the first—Making the Financial Case for Genealogical Librarianship—Curt highlights the many factors that are making 21st century genealogical librarianship more valuable to their organizations. The value of family and local history collections, as well as the expertise of the librarians associated with these collections, will be explored. Curt's knowledge and experience in this area will benefit public libraries, historical and genealogical societies, and repositories specializing in local and family history research. In his second presentation, Curt will share his knowledge of "online resources off the beaten path." Finding all the evidence for an ancestor is the research goal and bibliographic websites are of great benefit. He points out that the importance of bibliographic collections such as NUCMUC, WorldCat, and others has been de-emphasized with the growth of large information aggregators and the persuasive "just Google it" strategy. The researcher's access to the data they need will be greatly enhanced by learning about these resources.

Curt Witcher is a member of the Genealogy Committee of ALA, a past chair of ALA's History Section, a former president of both FGS and NGS, and the founding president of the Indiana Genealogical Society. Curt was distinguished in 1995 as a fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association (FUGA) and received FGS's highest honor, the Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Humanitarian Award, in 1997. He won the 2002 ALA-RUSA History Section Genealogical Publishing Company award and in 2003 was honored by the Indiana Historical Society as that year's Willard Heiss Memorial Lecturer. In 2006 he was named the first fellow of the Indiana Genealogical Society. Curt was honored by NGS with the P. William Filby Award for outstanding, life-time contributions to genealogical librarianship.

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 VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an important part of this conference, and we welcome additional help. Don't forget that you don't even have to be an attendee to volunteer. If you are bringing a spouse or friend along for the ride, please ask them if they would like to help out as well. If you -- or a spouse or friend -- can give us one or more hours of your time to volunteer at the conference, please [email Mary Choppa](mailto:Mary.Choppa@nergc.org).

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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www.NERGC.blogspot.com