

14th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



26-29 April 2017
Springfield, MA

E-zine 7 January 2017

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. Between now and April, 2017, we'll be continuing to provide updates on the Conference through periodic E-zines like this one. *Continue to follow our E-zines to keep up-to-date on the planning and the excitement of this Conference, and please share them -- and the conference brochure -- with your friends, associates and anyone else you feel may be interested in attending the Conference.* Of course there are other things planned that will be a secret until they happen during this wonderful event!

REGISTER NOW FOR NERGC 2017!

The fourteenth New England Regional Genealogical Conference – *Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past* -- is now less than five months away. Registration Chair Mary Choppa reports that over 210 genealogists and family historians from a variety of backgrounds have already registered for the Conference, its meals, and its workshops. Printed copies of the 20-page 2017 NERGC conference brochure have been distributed to NERGC Participating Societies and to many local libraries and museums. A pdf version is available [here](#). The brochure 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. **A reminder: to qualify for the "Early Bird" Full Conference rate of \$120, your registration must be made online or postmarked by 28 February 2017.** After that, the price goes up to \$150. Don't delay! Register today!

CONFERENCE FACILITY

The Fourteenth New England Regional Genealogical Conference is being held at the [MassMutual Center](#) in downtown Springfield, directly off Interstate 91 and only minutes from the Massachusetts Turnpike. Springfield is approximately 18 miles north of Bradley International Airport and 93 miles from Logan Airport in Boston. The MassMutual Center is a compact, two-story facility with three ballrooms on the top floor and five rooms plus the Exhibit Hall on the lower floor, with escalator and elevator service between the two floors -- and all just three blocks from the Conference hotels.

CONFERENCE HOTELS

NERGC has special rates at two hotels about two blocks from the MassMutual Center and ½ mile from the Peter Pan bus station and the Amtrak station.

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.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Workshop T-101, *After the Test: Exploring Ancestry DNA Results*, with Jennifer Zinck is now sold out. Also a reminder that there are changes to the speakers and topics in Sessions F-202, F-225, and S-327 from what was shown in the printed brochure. See [E-zine 6](#) for more information.

ATTENTION BEGINNING GENEALOGISTS

Here are some sessions designed just for you! Please share this information with others you know who are just starting with this wonderful hobby/profession.

- Wednesday workshop "Getting Started on Your Family History Research". This is a two-hour stand-alone offering – *you don't need to register for the full conference in order to attend*. Cost is \$30.
- T-112, Bridging the Decades: Little Used Clues from the U.S. Census with Elissa Scalise Powell
- T-120, They're Alive: Searching for Living Persons, with Thomas MacEntee
- T-121, Saving the Past for the Future: Preserving Family Objects, with Edwin W. Strickland
- T-115, Digging for Clues Among the Dead, with Helen Shaw
- T-122, The Cemetery: A Valuable Resource for Genealogists with Brenda Sullivan
- T-126, Meet John Smith: Tracing Ancestors with Common Monikers with Juliana Szucs
- F-205, Ten Ways to Jumpstart Your Genealogy, with Thomas MacEntee
- F-206, Fashion Clues to Understanding Who Your Ancestors Really Were with Maureen Taylor
- F-224, Grandma Married Whom?!? Evaluating Online Genealogical Information with Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer
- F-231, Adding Documents, Sources, and Citations to FamilySearch Family Trees with Robert Raymond
- F-238, Fixing Your Family Tree on FamilySearch with Kathryn Smith Black
- S-303, Managing the Genealogy Data Monster with Thomas MacEntee
- S-307, Being More than Just Social on Social Media with Jen Baldwin
- S-315, Your DNA in Action: Real Time, Hands-On Fun with Diahn Southard
- S-323, Understanding Probate and Deed Records in New England with David Allen Lambert

Special Interest Groups

Plan to attend one of the informal and informative Special Interests Groups on Thursday evening at 7:15. Hosts who are experts in their areas will lead the discussions, with time to ask questions, share problems, pitfalls, resources, and successes among attendees. Popular SIGS which will be offered again this year are **Blogging, DNA, Irish, Italian, French Canadian, Jewish** and **Scandinavian**. A **Polish and Eastern European** SIG, which hasn't been available in several conferences, will be offered this year, as well as a new and exciting **African American** SIG.

African American Special Interest Group

Do you have African American ancestors? African American genealogical research has steadily progressed in the last decade, but brick walls are still common and hard to navigate around without the proper tools. The resources available to today's family historian will amaze you. Bring along your research, problem ancestors, and questions about African American records, and hopefully we will be able to give you new avenues and sources to further your family tree. We will come together as a group and collectively discuss and explore areas of research unique to the African American community. The group will discuss using a variety of sources, including, but not limited to census records, Freedman Bureau records, and slave schedules, as well as other records that provide information for this special area of genealogy research.

DON'T MISS THE MEALS!

Attendees of past Conferences have provided feedback showing that the sharing, socializing, and networking that occurs at the meals were among the most meaningful parts of the Conference. Don't miss the opportunity for convenient, delicious meals, socialization, and networking with other participants. Register for the meals at the time you register for the Conference, using the paper registration form or [online](#).

LUNCHEONS AND BANQUETS

- Thursday's luncheon, sponsored by the Massachusetts Genealogical Council, features Thomas MacEntee speaking on "Scarce New World: Will Privacy Kill Genealogy?"
- At Friday's luncheon, sponsored by the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, each table will have as its host who will provide attendees the opportunity to converse with others about a focused genealogical topic. Seating at each table will be first come, first served.
- Friday's banquet features Kenyatta D. Berry, who will talk on "The Changing Genealogy Landscape: How Technology and Media are Impacting the Genealogy Community".
- Saturday's luncheon, sponsored by the Association of Professional Genealogists, will include a presentation by Jane Wilcox on "Forget Me Not: Remembering Our Grandmother's Stories".
- Saturday's banquet features Thomas MacEntee's presentation "How to Deal with Other Genealogists Without Going Crazy."

All luncheons and banquets offer a choice of entrées at varying prices; see the last page of the Registration Brochure for menu options, and then register by using the paper registration form on the back page of the Brochure or [online](#).

THURSDAY EVENING BOX SUPPER

It's a long day and it's going to be a busy evening – order a box supper for a quick evening meal so you can enjoy all the activities! Our dining room will be available for seating. Box suppers MUST BE Pre-Ordered by 1 April 2017. Choices: Italian Sub, Turkey Club, Chicken Caesar Wrap, or a Vegetarian Option. Includes chips, sweet treat, fruit and soft drink. Cost is \$20.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS

Start your day with a Continental Breakfast, served at the Mass Mutual Center Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 7:00-8:30 A.M. The menu includes coffee, decaf, or tea; assorted chilled juices; freshly baked breads and bagels; and fruit preserves, cream cheese, and butter. Cost is \$14.

ANCESTORS ROAD SHOW

Registration for consults will be held on-site at the Ancestors Road Show area in the Exhibit Hall on a first come, first served basis. When you register, you will be asked to complete a short form with information to bring to your session. These free 20-minute sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday and are limited to one session per registered conference participant.

Consultants are needed. Please consider giving an hour or two. Consultant time slots are matched up with lecture sessions for your convenience, and there are two time slots during lunch each day. For questions or to sign up to be a consultant, please contact jenzinck@gmail.com or sign up online at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0949a9a82aa6fd0-nergc>.

ATTENTION NERGC 2017 SPEAKERS AND EXHIBITORS

Remember to 'think like an attendee!' Even though you've been confirmed as a speaker or have purchased Exhibit Hall space, you still must register for the conference via the link from the nergc.org website. You can also go directly to registration via <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1842529> There is a drop-down list of registration types. Just pick "Speaker" or "Exhibitor" as appropriate. From there you can go on to select meals and other extra-cost options such as workshops and Wednesday tracks.

BE AN EXHIBITOR!

Is your organization or business interested in renting a booth in NERGC's Exhibit Hall? Space is still available, but hurry. Each initial booth now costs \$145 for NERGC Member Societies, \$195 for others. All additional booths for an exhibitor are \$120. We urge you to make your selection and to return the signed Exhibitor's Application Form, the signed Exhibitor's Agreement, and your payment as soon as possible to get the best possible location for your booth. 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 NERGCexhibits@gmail.com.

SOCIETY FAIR 2017

Come one, come all to the NERGC Society Fair on Thursday, April 27, 2017, from 5:30 P.M. to 7 P.M. There's still room if your group would like to take part. Many of our prior participants are signed up and ready for 2017. Don't be left out. 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 exhibitor receives a 6 x 2 table, two chairs and signage. You supply representatives and 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 COLLECTIBLES, PHOTOS, MAPS, DIARIES, PERSONAL PAPERS, GENEALOGICAL COLLECTIONS

Help us make history. All NEW! Calling Libraries, Archives and Museums that have special collections that would be of interest to genealogists and researchers. Choose one of your treasures that you guard and protect, take them out for a drive, and join us in Springfield. Celebrating a milestone in your organization? All the better—share it with hundreds of like minded folks. Two days—pick one—Friday, April 28th, or Saturday, April 29th, from 10 a.m. to 3 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.

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. Contact Mary Choppa at MChoppa@miyfairpoint.net 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.*

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.

A WORD FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

We've updated the Hospitality page on the NERGC website with all kinds of information to help you plan your trip, whether you're traveling by plane, train, bus or car. Flying into Bradley or Logan, phone numbers for taxis, how to catch the train from Boston, how far the bus station is from the hotels--it's all there!

From the Hospitality page you'll also find detailed information on local repositories and things to do in the area, as well as a fantastic description of dining options.

Coming next will be electronic coupons plus practical advice on pharmacies, banks, post office, photocopy stores, etc. Visit www.nergc.org/hospitality for details, and stay tuned.

IN AND AROUND SPRINGFIELD

As you make your plans to come to the Conference, try to allow some extra time (such as arriving earlier in the week and/or leaving on Sunday) for exploring attractions in and around Springfield. Springfield lies in the heart of the *PIONEER VALLEY*, a name given to the region in 1939 by a group of businessmen who wanted to promote tourism to the area. Being one of several in the state designated as "Valleys of Massachusetts" (the others are the Quabbin, Blackstone and Merrimack), the Pioneer Valley is the area in western Massachusetts comprising the three counties through which the Connecticut River passes. These three counties are:

Franklin County—the most rural county of Massachusetts, with an abundance of farms, is also home to the famed YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY and "The Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens" (South Deerfield), as well as the old HISTORIC DEERFIELD.

Hampshire County—home to five prominent colleges (Amherst, Hampshire, Mt. Holyoke, Smith, and University of Massachusetts, Amherst) and the significant municipalities of Northampton and Amherst. These towns are the sites of many independent bookstores, stationery shops, museums and restaurants; also, the NASH Dinosaur Track Quarry in South Hadley.

Hampden County—the most urban county in the Pioneer Valley, dominated by the large cities of western Massachusetts (listed in order of population): Springfield, Chicopee, Westfield, Holyoke, Agawam, and West Springfield). Numerous attractions are located in this county, for example, (just to name a few) Six Flags in Agawam, Maple Brook Farm in Westfield (with more than 100 of the finest, show-quality alpacas in the U. S.), the Museums of the Quadrangle and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, and the "Big E" (New England Exposition) in West Springfield with their Storowton Village which is open year-round.

For more information: www.valleyvisitor.com
www.visit-massachusetts.com; www.frommers.com/destinations/pioneervalley/
or simply Google "Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts".

Do you have needs related to meals, mobility, hearing, or vision which might affect your ability to fully participate in NERGC 2017? 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, we invite you to discuss your needs NOW, BEFORE you register. Feel free to [email](mailto:pam@nergc.org) Pamela Roberts, PT, EdD. or call her at 860-486-2406.

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 requirements in writing to NERGC by March 15, 2017.

NERGC'S OFFICIAL BLOGGERS

Official Bloggers have been chosen! Look for the NERGC 2017 badge on their pages. Interviews with speakers will soon be appearing on their individual blogs and linked to the NERGC page. This is a great opportunity to get to know the speakers you will meet in April. Stay tuned.

1. Barbara Matthews <http://www.demandinggenealogist.com/>
2. Marian Burk Wood <http://climbingmyfamilytree.blogspot.com/>
3. Elizabeth Pyle Handler <https://frommainetokentucky.blogspot.com/>
4. Isabelle Esteves <http://tracingyourfamilyroots.blogspot.com/>
5. Kenny Green www.genealogygangster.com
6. Dan Young <http://discoveringyourpast.com/wp/>
7. Sara Campbell <http://rememberingancestors.blogspot.com/>
8. Heather Rojo <https://nutfieldgenealogy.blogspot.com/>

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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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