

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



26-29 April 2017  
Springfield, MA

E-zine 11 April 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, 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!

Why attend a genealogical conference such as NERGC? Check out this [article](#) by Dave Robison, a member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists' Board of Governors and a Chair of NERGC 2017.

### **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 a month away. Over 900 genealogists and family historians from a variety of backgrounds have already registered for the conference, its meals, and its workshops. If you haven't registered yet, see our updated [brochure](#) and then go to our [online registration](#) site. Remember, even if you don't have time for the entire Conference, **single day registrations** are available at \$90 per day.

### **REGISTRATION REMINDERS**

- **You may sign up for meals until April 15.** Meals are not available after that date and will not be available for purchase at the conference.
- Wednesday ONLY events (Librarians Day, DNA Day, etc.) cannot be registered for on-site.
- Walk-ins may register for the Full Conference (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) or a specific day (Thursday or Friday or Saturday). *However:*
  - Meals will not be available for purchase.
  - Workshops that are full will not be visible; don't drive a distance to attend a workshop and be disappointed!
  - Tote bags and pins may not be available.
  - There will be no option to purchase the **print** syllabus. The e-syllabus will be posted on the NERGC website until the close of the conference.
- Cancellations received or postmarked before 10 April 2017 will be subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. **No refunds are available after 10 April 2017.**

If you are having trouble registering online or adding to an existing registration, contact [pcusson@att.net](mailto:pcusson@att.net).

## FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL MEAL NEEDS

If you have already registered and noted your dietary issues, by meal, those needs will be addressed; if you have not yet completed your registration or added meals, please notify Meals Chair [Muriel Normand](#) of any restrictions, by selected meal. Noted dietary restrictions will be included on your meal ticket, and special instructions may be provided as you enter the dining area.

## PARKING

The MassMutual Center does not own or operate any local parking facilities. Parking for those commuting to the conference is available in the Civic Center Parking Garage located at the corner of Bruce Landon Way (formerly Falcons Way) and Dwight Street. The Civic Center Parking Garage is owned by the Springfield Parking Authority. Therefore, we are unable to offer a special parking rate. Daily parking is also available at the Sheraton and Marriott hotels, just a few blocks away as well as at private parking facilities in the area.

## New to NERGC? Watch Our Overview Video

Our [Conference Overview Video](#) is meant to give you an idea of how this event works and some hints for making the most of your experience with genealogists from around the world. It's short in length and packed full of important information – we hope you enjoy it!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING: WHERE AND WHEN

**Check-in for Wednesday "Days"** takes place from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in front of their assigned rooms:

- Librarians' Day -- Ballroom A
- Professionals Day - Ballroom C
- DNA Day -- Ballroom B
- Tech Day Track 1 -- Room 2
- Tech Day Track 2 -- Room 3
- Society Management Day -- Room 4

**Check-in for Wednesday Workshops** takes place in front of their assigned rooms

- Getting Started on Your Family History Research --9:00-9:30 a.m., Room 1
- Designing Family History Books -- 12:30-1:00 p.m., Room 1
- Using Military Records -- 3:00-3:30 p.m., Room 1
- Using Deeds to Solve Genealogy Problems, 3:00-3:30 p.m., Room 5
- W101-B, After the Test: Exploring Ancestry DNA, 5:30-6:00 p.m., Room 5

**Conference Registration/Check-in** takes place in the MassMutual Center's first floor lobby on Wednesday from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Thursday from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Hospitality, Queries, Volunteers, and Evaluation tables** will be near the Registration Booths in the Mass Mutual Center's first floor lobby.

**Special Interest Groups** room assignments will be published in the next E-zine.

## PROGRAM UPDATE

The Wednesday and Thursday "After the Test: Exploring Ancestry DNA Results" workshops with Jennifer Zinck are both sold out. Due to popular demand, a third one, S-339-B has been scheduled for Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. Cost is \$25.00, and space is limited.

## **CHECK OUT THESE BLOG POSTS**

Here's a list of some blog posts about NERGC 2017. For links to previous posts, see [E-zine 9](#).

Feb. 20 Isabelle Esteves looking forward to NERGC

<http://tracingyourfamilyroots.blogspot.com/2017/02/nergc-2017-update.html>

Feb. 25 Barbara Matthews interviews Elissa Scalise Powell, Jen Baldwin and Michelle D. Novak

<http://blog.demandinggenealogist.com/2017/02/nergc-2017-premieres-society-management.html>

Feb. 26 Special Interest Groups from Barbara Carroll at Heather Rojo's blog

<https://nutfieldgenealogy.blogspot.com/2017/02/special-interest-groups-at-nergc.html>

March 26, Sara Campbell interviews Seema-Jayne Kenney

<http://rememberingancestors.blogspot.com/2017/03/nergc-speaker-spotlight-seema-jayne.html>

## **Are You Ready for the Technology Classroom?**

This year NERGC is featuring a "Technology for Genealogy Track," which will be held Thursday through Saturday in Room 2 of the MassMutual Center as part of the regular conference sessions. However, the room will be set up in classroom style, i.e., with tables for attendees to rest their laptops or tablets on and will have dedicated wifi for better downloading of websites by attendees. During any lecture period, you may pick the lecture in the Technology Classroom rather than a lecture in a regular meeting room. There is no added cost, but seating is limited.

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.

Although you may have indicated an interest in Technology sessions when you registered for the conference, that neither obligated you to attend nor guaranteed you a space for those sessions. Please plan to be early for sessions covering the most popular websites. We've also made the decision to ask that the room be cleared between presentations. It just wouldn't be fair to all conference goers if people were saving seats from session to session.

To make your own experience better, make sure to bring information about your user name and password for each website. If you don't already have an account for a website, make sure to get one prior to the conference.

- FamilySearch is open to everyone. Just sign up for a free account at <https://familysearch.org/register/1>.
- Ancestry also has a guest account. Unfortunately you can't access all databases from that account, as they explain at <https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/ka215000000Tzn5AAC/Ancestry-Guest-Registration-1460088565392-2206>. If you are attending an Ancestry lecture, a paid option will provide more access.
- The New England Historic Genealogy Society provides a guest account at <https://www.americanancestors.org/membership/guest-users> but it has limited access. If you are attending our NEHGS presentation, a paid option will give you better access.

Make sure to fully charge your laptop, tablet, or smartphone. We weren't able to add power for the tables in the room due to cost.

## **QUERIES**

As in the past, there will be an on-site Query Board at NERGC 2017. Bring your Query information to the conference, and be prepared to fill out Queries Forms at the Query Board site. We hope you'll find a ton of responses! Those wishing more widespread dissemination of their queries may opt to check an "ok to post" box on the Form; those queries will be posted on the NERGC Web page after the conference. The preferred Query format uses standard abbreviations and the date written in dd mm yyyy format (e.g. 27 July 1927). Show birth, death, marriage in that order, with every location shown before date and all known information stated before the question is asked. Remember to include your contact information!

## LIBRARIANS DAY UPDATE

**Fostering Family History Services** author Rhonda L. Clark, will share expertise and recommendations from her book at *Librarians and Local Historians Day*. Rhonda and co-author Nicole Wedemeyer Miller have written a step-by-step guide—a blueprint for developing a family history program. This professional guide will teach you how to integrate family history programming into your educational outreach tools and services to the community. Your organization can tap into the popularity of the do-it-yourself genealogy movement by promoting the library or local history society as a center for genealogical study. Local collections can be leveraged to help visitors research their ancestors, document family stories, and archive family heirlooms. Fostering family history services will help to establish your role as both a preserver of local community history and a source of expertise for your visitors to archive what's important to their family. Watch this space for news about a book signing with Rhonda Clark at the conference.

Dr. Rhonda L. Clark, is Associate Professor of Information and Library Science at Clarion University in Pennsylvania. She holds a Ph.D. in Russian History from the University of Minnesota and an M.S. in Library Science from the University of Pennsylvania. As an assistant professor at Clarion University, she teaches courses in local special collection representation, archival management for small repositories, digital libraries, and reference services for genealogy and local history collections. Her research interests focus on local studies collections. Rhonda is a member of the American Library Association and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries.

## GENEALOGICAL TOUR

The hours for those going on the Genealogical Tour by bus on Wednesday, April 26th have been extended by an hour, so as to allow sufficient time for visiting and learning about all of the sites on the scheduled visits. The hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (rather than 2:00 p.m.); everyone registered for the Tour should plan to be at the entrance to the MassMutual Center by 9:45 a.m. for checking in and boarding the bus. Questions? Contact [David Martin](#) or [Dave Robison](#).

## EXHIBIT HALL

The more than 50 vendors and organizations exhibiting in the Exhibit Hall offer a wide range of products and services -- products and services that can help you to use "the tools of today and tomorrow to understand the past."

Several of the vendors represent organizations whose records are focused on areas outside of the United States. They include ArkivDigital, Drouin Institute, and the Essex Records Office. Also present is a vendor whose focus is on translating genealogical records from German to English. Vendors who can provide you with the opportunity to continue your learning will also be present. Such vendors include Boston University, Excelsior College, Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburg, and the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. A number of vendors will make available an assortment of print items from magazines (Moorshead Magazines) to books (Hearthstone Legacy, Higginson Books, and Maia's Books), maps (Old Maps), and chart printing (Family ChartMasters).

This is a short representation of the vendors who will be in the Exhibit Hall. To see the [full list of participating vendors](#), please visit the NERGC website. Links are available to each vendor's website so you may learn more about them, their products and their services.

The Exhibit Hall is located in the first floor of the MassMutual Center and will be open Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Conference registration is not required to visit the Exhibit Hall as it is open to the public.

## SOCIETY FAIR

Thursday evening. Sessions are over. Watch for signs at elevators and escalators for the Society Fair. GROUND FLOOR. 5:00 p.m. Genealogical societies and cemetery studies. Colonial, Afro-American, Jewish, Polish, and Ulster-Scots. Something for everyone!

## ANCESTORS ROAD SHOW

Come share the who, what, when, and where of your research problem with an expert at the NERGC Ancestors Road Show in the Exhibit Hall! We have an exciting lineup of expert volunteers in many specialties to provide 192 consults for attendees! Consults are limited to one per registered attendee and are available on a first-come, first-served basis until spaces fill each day.

PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE FROM WHAT APPEARS IN THE CONFERENCE BROCHURE: Registration for Friday consults will be open at the Ancestors Road Show area in the Exhibit Hall from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Thursday and will continue on Friday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. if any spots remain. Registration for Saturday consults will open on Friday from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and will continue on Saturday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. if any spots remain. For questions please contact [jenzinck@gmail.com](mailto:jenzinck@gmail.com).

There are eight Consultant spots available. Consultants please sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0949a9a82aa6fd0-nergc>.

## LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND MUSEUMS SHOWCASE

Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ground Floor outside the Exhibit Hall and Concessions.

### Friday

**Windsor Historical Society's** research library houses extensive historical resources relating to the town of Windsor, Connecticut and its people, as well as materials that explore topics of local and regional interest. From their collection will be their 1890 recreated Windsor census and a few items from their "Old Documents" primary source collections. The research library holds thousands of historic photographs, 17th- to 20th-century primary documents, (many indexed by date and family name), more than 350 published genealogies of Windsor families, copies of local cemetery records and vital records, regional and state histories, town reports, local newspapers, school yearbooks, city directories, and maps.

### Saturday

**The Carpenter Museum of Rehoboth** is showcasing a late 18<sup>th</sup>-century wooden dough trough and peel that were owned by resident Martha Martin Blanding (1761–1856), the wife of Bunker Hill veteran Colonel Christopher Blanding (1756–1808). Women used dough troughs to make the great quantities of bread consumed weekly by large households. The troughs could be moved easily to warm areas of the kitchen and made tidy work of kneading and setting the dough to rise. The trough and peel, given by Martha's granddaughter, Lucy Blanding Pearse, are representative of the Museum's rich collection of colonial-era artifacts that were donated at the founding of its parent organization, the **Rehoboth Antiquarian Society**, in the mid-1880s.

**UMass Boston's Archives and Special Collections**, UMass Boston holds a number of archival collections of interest to family history researchers, including the 30,000 application records of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, the records from the Thompson's Island Farm and Trade School from 1832 - 1975, oral history interviews with Boston area African American railroad workers, more than 9,000 family photographs and stories contributed by Massachusetts residents as part of the "Mass. Memories Road Show" and much more.

## NEWS FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee has been working with the Springfield Valley Visitors' Bureau to ensure that conference attendees have a wonderful experience while in Springfield for NERGC 2017. With that in mind, we're proud to provide you with some [electronic coupons](#), offering savings on museum admissions, local restaurants, and fun activities. Because who doesn't love saving money? The link will also be on our webpage, for easy access. See you soon!

## CALL FOR CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

Did you know that NERGC's Conference is a totally volunteer-run event? We're still looking for additional volunteers to help out at the Conference. For more information, contact [Pat Stano-Carpenter](#).

### **ACCESSIBILITY ASSISTANCE**

Accessibility Coordinator Pam Roberts announces that she is following up through email and telephone calls with those challenged with special mobility, hearing, or visual needs who have asked for accommodations to more fully participate comfortably in the conference activities. Although the deadline for identifying special needs as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act was March 15, if you have not already brought a need to Pam's attention either through the registration process or by email or phone, please feel free to [email](#) her or call her at 860-486-2406; she may be able to assist you. Accessibility information will also be available at the NERGC Hospitality Table at the MassMutual Center.

### **EVALUATIONS! YOUR CHANCE FOR INPUT!**

Yes, the little slips of paper on chairs will return for NERGC 2017. In addition, conference participants will have the convenience of an online Full Conference Survey prompted by individual emails to each registrant. A tradition since the first NERGC Conference, evaluations play a big role in the review of the conference and on planning for the next one. Your input helps NERGC to continue its tradition of conference excellence. Our speakers have consistently praised NERGC for summarizing and sharing feedback from session with them. Your voice matters to NERGC. **PLAN NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITIES AT NERGC 2017.** Questions? Contact [Pam Roberts](#) (On-Site Evaluations) or [Hillary Schau](#) (Full Conference Survey).

### **GENEALOGYBANK COLLECTION OF HISTORIC SPRINGFIELD NEWSPAPERS**

Interested in researching historic Springfield, Massachusetts? Do you have ancestors from that area you'd like to learn more about? GenealogyBank has set up a special webpage for online Springfield newspapers that were published there from 1782 to 1989 ([click here](#)). Researchers with subscriptions to GenealogyBank will easily find information about families from Western Massachusetts as well as nearby Connecticut, New York, and Vermont in 16 Springfield newspapers.

### **WANT TO RECEIVE THE E-ZINE?**

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.

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