

17th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



May 3-6, 2023
Springfield, Massachusetts

E-zine 1 August 2022

Welcome to NERGC 2023! The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC) invites you to join us at our seventeenth conference. After careful evaluation of the pros and cons of all conference formats, our Board has decided to prioritize the opportunities for social interaction offered by the in-person experience. We look forward to connecting with you—our fellow genealogists and family historians—**live and in-person in Springfield, Massachusetts, May 3-6, 2023**, where we can share our stories, triumphs, challenges, methods, and resources.

The Conference Committee is planning 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. The conference hotels will have rooms available at the conference rate from Tuesday evening through Sunday night.

Registration for NERGC 2023 won't begin until the fall, 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. Simply fill out the form at <https://nergc.org/e-zines/>.

WHAT IS NERGC?

While many think of NERGC as a Conference, it is really much more. Formed almost 30 years ago to bring cutting-edge genealogical education to New England family historians, the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc., has produced sixteen conferences, meeting in every New England state at least once. Each conference is made possible by many hours of work by volunteers from the Consortium's Participating Societies. Here are some participants' comments from our past conferences:

- ❖ I love this conference. It is affordable and very helpful and honestly has gotten only better over time.
- ❖ I love how it is focused on New England research and the size. Sometimes the larger conferences give me ideas. But I find I get more from this regional conference.
- ❖ I enjoyed every minute very much. Thank you very much.
- ❖ The conference as a whole was excellent! The speakers were fantastic!
- ❖ The quality of the presentations—you have some of the best public speakers I have ever encountered.
- ❖ I think everyone involved in this huge event deserves an enthusiastic round of applause for a job well done. Everyone was helpful, friendly and more than willing to share their ideas, experiences, insights, and expertise with one another. What's not to like! It was a great experience.
- ❖ [Loved] networking with other genealogists and learning new methods and resources for research.
- ❖ You do a phenomenal job and can't think of anything that would be an improvement. Your team is excellent. The amount of coordination required to pull this conference off is extraordinary, and this humble participant can find no fault.

2021 Volunteer Award Presented to Judy Izenberg



The Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Genealogy Volunteer Award is presented biennially to an individual who has provided outstanding volunteer service to the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium or its member societies, and as such to the field of genealogy, over and above the job to which they were elected or appointed to do. The 2021 award was presented to Judy Izenberg of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston (JGSGB). Citing her active and ongoing participation in JGSGB, the award recognized Judy as the consummate genealogy volunteer—organized, creative, smart, persistent, collegial, good humored, outgoing, generous with her time, skills and guidance:

- JGSGB board member since 2003.
- JGSGB Hospitality Chair, with responsibilities including set-up for meetings and greeting members.
- Monitor of JGSGB telephone system, including responding to calls that come in or sending them to the appropriate person.
- Outreach Speaker—speaking at temples, libraries, retirement communities about Jewish Genealogy.
- Program Committee member—developed evaluation form used to gain feedback from members for assessment of Sunday lecture programs.
- Volunteer coordinator for 2013 International Association of Jewish Genealogical Society in Boston, which saw over 1,000 attendees.
- Planning committee member for the 25th and 36th JGSGB anniversary events—organized displays by members.
- Member of the JGSGB board Nominating Committee.
- Coach for the JGSGB award-winning course, Jewish Genealogy: Discover Your Family History
- Developed and led genealogy course for middle schoolers.
- Developed "buddy system" pairing new JGSGB members with veteran members.
- Former Society Librarian and archivist of the *Mass-Pocha*, the JGSGB journal.
- Created displays about aspects of Jewish genealogy for Newton Library, Brookline Library and Temple Israel of Boston to promote doing genealogical research.
- JGSGB representative to NERGC, promoting the attendance of JGSGB members to NERGC conferences, and assisting at NERGC biennial conferences.

For more than 13 years, Judy has served as the JGSGB delegate to NERGC, and has sat on the NERGC Board of Directors for nine years. During this time, Judy has held several roles at the NERGC biennial conferences. She has been responsible for the purchase of the tote bags distributed to attendees and served as a room monitor, where she introduced speakers, greeted attendees and collected evaluations. She has also worked on the committee that entered evaluation data into spreadsheets.

While the above are Judy's accomplishments as an integral member of the New England genealogy community, they only hint at is the kindness and humanity that Judy brings to every responsibility she assumes, including delivering Meals on Wheels and other community activities, such as tutoring for English as a second language. Judy never expects kudos, but she is well deserving—she is a doer. The JGSGB is blessed to have exceptional volunteers. Judy Izenberg is at the top of this list. We greatly appreciate all that she has done for the New England genealogical community through her work with JGSGB and NERGC.

OUR 2023 CONFERENCE THEME

In 2023, we will be at the MassMutual Center (www.massmutualcenter.com) in Springfield, Massachusetts. In keeping with our conference theme, "Missing Branches Are Not the End of the Line," the conference will feature presentations on:

- DNA methodologies and case studies
- New England records and repositories
- Problem solving, methodology, and new approaches to traditional research
- Sharing and preserving your family history through writing, photography, and digital media
- Research planning and project implementation
- Technology: Providing solutions to improve genealogical research
- Understanding historical context related to genealogy
- Interesting uses of records including religious, civil, land, probate, military, maritime, and newspapers

Meet Our Conference Chairs



John Leppman

John A. Leppman is a partly retired internal medicine physician who has lived and worked in Bellows Falls, Vermont for the past 46 years. His avocational interests have long included family history, and he has compiled books on his ancestors in Scotland, New England, and Germany. His most spectacular books are yet to appear. He collects books and other paper material about Vermont and compiled *A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy* (first edition 2000, second edition 2005). He has served as President of the Genealogical Society of Vermont and of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium.

Judy Goss

Judy Goss has been pursuing genealogical research, for herself and friends, on and off over many, many years. Her father's family is rooted for several generations in Vermont, extending back to other New England States. Her mother's forebears are more recent arrivals from Counties Armagh and Donegal, and Slovakia. Lectures at past NERGCs have always provided inspiration and ideas for new avenues to search. She hopes NERGC 2023 will be a great learning experience for all attendees.



Robert Cameron Weir



Robert Cameron Weir lives in Dover, New Hampshire, where he engages in genealogical research, lecturing, writing, video production, and publishing. He loves using his knowledge, expertise and creativity to help his clients find out more about their origins. Rob is Publications Director for the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists and past Vice President of the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. An inveterate joiner, Rob is a current member of seven different NERGC societies.

Meet Our NERGC 2023 Featured Speakers

Dr. Michael D. Lacopo



Michel Lacopo is a retired small-animal veterinarian born and raised in northern Indiana. He takes a scientific approach to his research as he does to his profession. Researching since 1980, he has lectured internationally and written for numerous periodicals and journals. Combining libraries, archives, cemeteries and courthouses as a teenager, Michael gained the skills needed to become a keen researcher. His first major challenge was tackled by finding his adopted mother's birthparents in 1982. You can read about this adventure at Roots4U.blogspot.com with some engaging storytelling, plot twists and new findings! A self-described "all-American mutt," his research skills cover a broad range of topics with focus on genetic genealogy, social history, German and Swiss research, especially as it pertains to the 18th century emigration to Pennsylvania, and more.

Rich Venezia

Rich Venezia, formerly of Pittsburgh, now of Philadelphia, is a leading expert in twentieth-century immigration research and records, especially underutilized record sources and federal records. He was a member of *Genealogy Roadshow's* research team for two seasons. He also conducts research for those with Italian and Irish ancestry and makes annual research trips to Europe. Additionally, he assists clients with dual citizenship for both Ireland and Italy. He received his Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University in 2015. He lectures nationally and spoke about "How to Grow Empathy from Uncovering Your Roots" at TEDx Pittsburgh 2017. He was a course coordinator at SLIG 2019 and an instructor at SLIG 2018. He coordinated the #RecordsNotRevenue campaign in late 2019 and early 2020, which received international press and garnered him the Shirley M. Barnes Records Access Award from the Massachusetts Genealogical Council. More about Rich can be found on <http://www.richroots.net/>.



Become a Sponsor!

Sponsors are the lifeblood of NERGC—our partners in keeping prices as low as possible (a particularly challenging task for 2023)! Through sponsorships, your organization/services are spotlighted for our expected 1,000 active genealogist attendees.

Opportunities abound at all financial levels. These range from underwriting special events during the conference (such as a Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening); renting a Booth in our Exhibit Hall, which allows interaction with attendees and the general public (and includes one admission to the conference); contributing to the purchase of lanyards or swag bags and providing inserts that will be distributed to all attendees; helping fund meals; taking out an advertisement in our syllabus, which will also be featured on our website; and donating small items for our Volunteers Raffle, so we can say thank you to our many volunteers.

If you know of organizations that would like to participate, visit <https://nergc.org/partners/> for more details and sponsorship@nergc.org with all questions.

WANT TO RECEIVE THE E-ZINE?

The Conference E-zine, a digital newsletter which provides information and updates about the New England Regional Genealogy Conference, is sent periodically to all those on our E-zine email list. If you're not already receiving it and would like to do so, fill out the form at <https://nergc.org/e-zines/>.

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<https://www.facebook.com/NERGC/>

VISIT OUR BLOG

www.NERGC.blogspot.com

Watch for the next E-zine in early October.

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