

17th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



May 3-6, 2023
Springfield, Massachusetts

E-zine 3, January 6, 2023

Welcome to NERGC 2023! The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC) invites you to join us at our seventeenth conference, “Missing Branches Are Not the End of the Line” May 3–6, 2023 *live and in-person ONLY* at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. We look forward to connecting with you—our fellow genealogists and family historians—and sharing our stories, triumphs, challenges, methods, and resources.

REGISTRATION FOR NERGC 2023 IS NOW OPEN!

The time we've all been waiting for has arrived. Registration for NERGC 2023 is now open! The cost of Full Registration is \$190 on or before February 15 or \$210 February 16 and after.

Conference Brochure

Prior to registering, you can download the conference brochure, which includes the full program of the conference, at <https://nergc.org/brochure/>. You may want to print it out and circle the sessions you want to attend and the events you want to participate in. With eight concurrent tracks of sessions, you may have some tough choices to make!

To Register

Online

You can register and pay by credit card at <https://nergc.org/registration>. Note that online selection of session preferences and a conference app will not be available until February. Registrants will be contacted when they become available.

OR

By Mail

When you are ready to register you can fill out and mail in the last page of that brochure, along with your check, to the address given.

Note: Those entitled to free admission, such as speakers, exhibitors, and award winners, will be emailed a discount code to be used during online registration to deduct the cost of their ticket. Those in these categories know who they are and should wait for that code before registering.

HOTEL INFORMATION

If you need to book a hotel, we have negotiated a special group rate at two hotels within walking distance of the MassMutual Center, the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place and the Marriott Springfield Downtown. Just mention "New England Regional Genealogical Consortium" when you book to get the special rate. NERGC 2023.

Marriott Springfield Downtown

Two Boland Way (413) 781-7111, www.marriott.com/BDLMS. Rooms and suites feature rich fabrics and unique artwork. There are 262 guest rooms and three suites as well as on-site restaurants and a lounge, fitness facility, and indoor pool. Rooms are available from May 2 through May 6 for \$169.00 plus taxes. Parking will be discounted to \$10 at Tower Square Parking Garage. Reservation deadline is April 2, 2023.

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel

One Monarch Place (413) 781-1010, <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1663857716262&key=GRP> (the Sheraton is now owned by the Marriott). Amenities here include Starbucks®, restaurant, MVP pub, fitness center, and indoor heated pool. Rooms are available from May 2 through May 6, and the group rate of \$179.00 plus taxes may be used three days before and after based on availability. Hotel parking is \$19.95 per night per vehicle. Reservation deadline is April 11, 2023.

Each hotel provides NERGC with financial compensation for attendees staying at these facilities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

NERGC 2023 will feature 102 presentation sessions, three workshops, and five meals between 8:00 a.m. Thursday and 8:00 p.m. Saturday! There will be 64 speakers from 18 States and Canada, including local favorites like David Allen Lambert and Maureen Taylor as well as NERGC favorites like Michael Strauss, and Carol McCoy. They will join our featured speakers, Rich Venezia and Dr. Michael Lacopo, to provide a New England focused conference with sessions on ethnic research, methodology, a variety of sources, colonial records, military research, Canadian research and more!

More information about the conference is available at www.NERGC.org. We hope you'll join us for a great conference!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Our pre-conference activities on Wednesday include four special research tracks—Revolutionary War, French-Canadian Research, Advanced DNA, and Jumpstart Your Research. Each track costs \$50, does not require conference registration, and will include four sessions and a lunch break with an optional on-site meal available. These sessions often appeal to a smaller audience and thus might not otherwise be included in a large conference.

In addition, we're offering four workshops late Wednesday afternoon (4:30-6:30) for those who can arrive on Wednesday or come after work. The topics include writing, land records, census reports, and working with photographs. Attending a workshop on Wednesday gives you more opportunity to enjoy as many as 19 sessions during the three-day conference! The cost of the workshops is \$30 and does not require conference registration.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES PERTAINING TO REGISTRATION:

- February 15th -- the last day of "Early Bird" discount price on the 3-day full registration ticket.
- March 26 -- the last day to order a printed syllabus or a syllabus on a USB stick.
- April 2 -- the last day to request hotel accommodations for accessibility needs.
- April 14 -- the last day to cancel registrations for a refund (minus \$20).
- April 15 -- the last day to order meals.
- April 28th -- the last day to register online. If you miss this date, just arrive and register onsite.

If you have any questions regarding the registration specifically, please send an email to: registration@nergc.org.

If you have a more general question about the conference, you can send an email to: nergc-help@nergc.org.

HOSPITALITY AT NERGC SPRINGFIELD

This coming May, genealogists and their friends and partners have an opportunity to enjoy not only the terrific NERGC conference planned for them but also the city of Springfield. Springfield and its surrounding area offer something for everyone. The compact downtown provides all you need right in the vicinity of the MassMutual Center--hotels, restaurants, banks, museums, repositories, the Basketball Hall of Fame, and even a casino. In addition, the city is surrounded by historic buildings and workers' quarters, an armory, and even The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss.

Springfield is known as the "City of Firsts". Tune in to the next E-Zine to learn more about why this boast is justified and appropriate.

Check the "Springfield" section of our website, NERGC.org to find out more about Springfield and about what our Hospitality Committee is offering attendees.

EXHIBIT HALL UPDATE

As of January 2, we have thirty-three exhibitors. Since some exhibitors have requested more than one standard-size booth, this means we have actually sold a total of forty-two standard-size booth spaces. So far, four of the exhibitors have stated they will be offering door-prizes of some kind.

Assignment of booth spaces has not been done yet, but the process will begin soon. The Early Bird discount on booth purchases ended on December 31, but we still have booth spaces available. Priority will be given to NERGC Participating Societies and Exhibitors who have exhibited at previous NERGC conferences. [Click here](#) to learn more about how to apply for an exhibit booth, or email ExhibitHall@nergc.org.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND MUSEUMS SHOWCASE

It is very exciting to announce these confirmed exhibitors for our Showcase this early in the conference timetable:

The Public Health Museum at the Tewksbury State Hospital
Rhode Island Historical Society
The Rochester (NY) Genealogical Society
Vermont State Archives and Records Administration and Vermont Historical Records Program
The Wilbraham Library
The Franco-American Collections Consortium.

Here is a preview of the Franco-American Collections Consortium. They have a database called the [Franco American Digital Archives/Portail franco-américain](#) which was created and operated by the Consortium. The Consortium consists of five universities and colleges: University of Maine Orono; University of Maine Fort Kent; University of Southern Maine; Assumption University; and Saint Anselm College. Each hold substantial collections documenting French-Canadian migration to the United States. They provide open access to historic Franco-American materials from institutions throughout the United States and Canada. Materials linked in the portal include documents, photographs, oral history recordings, etc. They categorize all items at the item record level to add details such as family names and neighborhoods. These details can be used as facets to search for materials relevant to all researchers including genealogists. What a perfect addition to the conference with a special track on Wednesday for French Canadian research.

Plenty of space remains for additional libraries, archives and museums with special collections of interest to genealogists and researchers to join us in Springfield. exhibitors on both Friday and Saturday. We provide one table, two chairs, and signage at no cost for informational exhibits about special collections on Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Each of our exhibitors will also be highlighted as the E-zines continue. For more information, please email LAMShowcase@nergc.org.

SOCIETY FAIR

Tables are going quickly. There are 14 Society/Family Associations that have been confirmed for our Thursday, May 4th event from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We provide a table and signage provided, FREE, but space is limited. Contact SocietyFair@nergc.org for information.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

NERGC is traditionally a volunteer effort, and 2023 will need plenty of volunteers! Each of the 100+ sessions needs at least two volunteers – a Host/Hostess and a Door Monitor. Each meal needs people to check tickets at the door. Each hour that registration, the volunteer table, or the hospitality table is open requires at least one volunteer. Other areas may need volunteers as well.

If you're willing to donate an hour (or more) of your time, watch for the announcement that our volunteer portal is open at SignUpGenius. You'll be able to select the job and time slot you'd like and assign your volunteer hours to one of the Participating Societies.

Benefits of volunteering at the conference include getting to know people you work with, meeting the speakers, helping your participating society, and, of course, providing a wonderful conference experience for all of our attendees!



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.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM NERGC'S ACCESSIBILITY TEAM



Potential attendees or registrants with special dietary needs and/or mobility, hearing, or visual concerns impacting your access and participation at this conference are welcome to contact Pam Roberts, NERGC 2023 Accessibility and ADA Liaison, at accessibility@nergc.org to request an opportunity to plan ahead for your needs to be met. Our registration process will give those with special meal needs the option of summarizing your requests in writing in a spot provided.

Persons with mobility, hearing, or visual concerns will be given an opportunity to summarize any needs during online registration or on the downloadable manual fillable Registration and Payment Form on the last page of our distributed brochures. Feel free to contact Pam Roberts at: accessibility@nergc.org even before you register to inquire about the conference venue and hotel access for entering, parking, and how to request an accessible hotel room within our event block before April 2 as well as community

access from the hotels to the venue. She or an accessibility volunteer will work with you through your preferred phone or email to design an access plan to maximize your ability to enjoy your conference experience considering your hearing, visual or mobility abilities and needs.

To take the fullest advantage of the accessibility options, please register during the discounted Early Bird registration period which ends February 15. We will try to meet your requested needs ANYTIME before or during the conference, but we may be limited in how we can assist, especially if your request comes after April 12, 2023, two weeks before the event. Referral for equipment such as scooter rentals will be coordinated for best personal area rental fees with a negotiated group rate for delivery and pick up. So, please do reach out to Pam with questions ASAP. She will email or call you directly to plan how your needs might be met.

FOLLOW NERGC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

E-zine

Continue to follow our E-zines to keep up to date on the planning and the excitement of this conference. They are sent periodically to all those on our mailing list. If you're not already receiving them and would like to do so, go to <https://nergc.org/e-zines/>, enter your email address, last name, and first name in the form on the right side of the screen, and hit the "Sign Up" button. Back issues of the E-zine are also posted on the E-zine page.

CONFERENCE BLOG

Keep up to date with breaking news about the many special events and conference activities that are planned. Find out more information about the lectures, speakers, exhibitors, hotel, research facilities, and the City of Springfield. Check out the blog to get the most out of the conference: <https://nergc.org/blog/>.

FACEBOOK

Thinking about attending NERGC? Don't miss out on the excitement! Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NERGC> to learn more about the conference, check out the photos from past Conferences, and write on the NERGC "wall."

TWITTER

Follow the #NERGC Conversation on Twitter, where we are @NERGC2023. Also follow #NERGC for other buzz about the conference.

Watch for the next E-zine later this month.