

17th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



May 3-6, 2023
Springfield, Massachusetts

E-zine 4, January 19, 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.

Welcome



NERGC 2023

“EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FOR NERGC ENDS FEBRUARY 15!

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 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 UPDATE

NERGC has reserved blocks of rooms at two hotels in Springfield, walkable to the conference, a Sheraton and a Marriott: Each hotel provides NERGC with financial compensation for attendees staying at these facilities. We’ve heard that some folks were having difficult accessing our reserved rooms at the Marriott Springfield. Here is updated hotel information:

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel (\$179/night, last day to book is April 11) One Monarch Place, Springfield, MA 01144. Reservations can be made [at this link](#) or by calling 1-800-325-3535 or (413) 781-1010. Mention that you are booking for the "New England Regional Genealogical Consortium" to get the negotiated conference rate.

Marriott Springfield Downtown (\$169/night, last day to book is April 2), 2 Boland Way, Springfield, MA 01115. Reservations can be made [at this link](#) or by calling the hotel at 413-781-7111. Mention our group code, "NE1625," to get the negotiated conference rate.

Contact accessibility@nergc.org for details about the accessible rooms available upon request.

SYLLABUS REMINDER

A link to an electronic version of the syllabus, which will include conference information as well as handouts for the general conference sessions, will be sent to all registrants approximately one week prior to the conference. Optionally available are a printed syllabus (\$25.00) or a pdf file on a flash drive (\$5.00), either of which must be ordered by March 26, 2023. *The printed syllabus and flash drive will not be available for sale at the Conference. Place your order when you use the paper registration form on the back page of the brochure or register online.* Please note that the conference syllabus will not include any handouts for the optional workshops or Wednesday pre-conference activities. Any handouts related to those activities will be distributed separately to those who registered for those activities.

DON'T MISS THE MEALS!

Meals offered at the conference provide the opportunity to:

- Socialize—Meet new people or renew old friendships.
- Discuss—Talk about information from the workshops.
- Share—Relate genealogy successes and challenges.
- Learn—Listen to presentations from expert speakers.



The NERGC Meals Committee has negotiated with the MassMutual Center to offer a variety of meals for a reasonable cost. All luncheons and banquets offer a choice of entrees; see the last page of the [brochure](#) for menu options, and then purchase your meals when you [register online](#) or by using the paper registration form on the back page of the brochure.

For those with special dietary needs, the online registration process and the paper form both provide an opportunity to describe the specific needs. Complete the registration form, select the meals, and we will contact you to determine the best way to accommodate your request. If you have [questions relating to special meal requests](#), email meals@nergc.org.

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, providing a New England focused conference with sessions on ethnic research, methodology, a variety of sources, colonial records, military research, Canadian research and more! Those with New England ancestors may want to consider attending one or more of the following sessions:

- T-104, The Real Life of New England Vital Records with Diane Boumenot
- T-105, Border Changes to Know in New England Research with Scott Andrew Bartley
- T-106, Roots in Granite: Finding Your New Hampshire Ancestors with Diane Florence Gravel
- F-202, 19th Century Whaling – A Family Affair with Sara Campbell
- F-203, Untangling New Hampshire Manuscripts with Kathy Richardson
- F-208, Digging Up Colonial New England Ancestor Records with Beth Finch McCarthy
- F-222, Strategies for Connecticut Research, with Pauline Merrick
- F-223, NY to New England: A Case Study, with Susan Miller
- F-118, Researching in 17th Century Connecticut, with Ann G. Lawthers
- F-234, Genealogical Gold in New England Town Books and Reports, with Robert Cameron Weir
- S-303, Rhode Island: What's New Online, with Diane Boumenot
- S-304, New Connecticut Records Online at FamilySearch, with Robert Raymond
- S-315, It's a Done Deal: Using Land Records, with Edwin Strickland II
- S-320, Creating Maine Town Records, with Carol Prescott McCoy

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. Also note that indicating your interest in specific lectures neither obligates you to attend nor guarantees you a space for those sessions.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- February 15—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 flash drive.
- April 12—the last day to [request personal access equipment rentals](#).
- April 14—the last day to cancel registrations for a refund (minus \$20).
- April 15—the last day to order meals.
- April 28—the last day to register online. If you miss this date, just arrive and register onsite.
- April 29—link to digital syllabus distributed via email.

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.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND MUSEUMS SHOWCASE

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

The Franco-American Collections Consortium.

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

NERGC continues to encourage libraries, archives, and museums with special collections of interest to genealogists and researchers to join us in Springfield. One table, two chairs, and signage are available at no cost for informational exhibits about special collections, Friday and Saturday, May 5th and 6th, from 10 a.m. to 3 pm. For more information, please email LAMShowcase@nergc.org.



SOCIETY FAIR

There are now 18 Society/Family Associations that have been confirmed for our Thursday, May 4 event from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We provide a table and signage, FREE, but space is limited. Tables are going quickly, so contact SocietyFair@nergc.org for information as soon as possible.

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS—THE CITY OF FIRSTS

From its founding in 1635, Springfield has rightly claimed the title “City of Firsts.”

From the first book banned in the American colonies to the newspaper that first published the poems of Emily Dickinson and the first Webster dictionary, from ice skates and bicycles to automobiles and motorcycles, from the rifles developed at the first armory in the U.S. to the manufacture of Smith and Wesson handguns—all took place in Springfield.

It is possible to investigate some of these firsts at locations within walking distance of NERGC hotels and the MassMutual Center.

- **Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History** (21 Edwards Street; www.springfieldmuseums.org) is known for its local history research facilities, its changing exhibitions, and its wide-ranging collections illuminating the history of the Connecticut River Valley. The Indian Motorcycle Collection is the largest collection of Indian cycles and memorabilia in the world. The Firearms Collection includes more than 1,600 firearms (the largest collection of Smith & Wesson guns in the world). The Automobile Collection includes an 1899 Knox, a 1901 Crestmobile, and Rolls-Royce roadsters from 1925 and 1928.



- **The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum** (21 Edwards Street; springfieldmuseums.org/about/dr-seuss-museum)



features family-friendly, interactive exhibits exploring Dr. Seuss’s Springfield roots and provides opportunities to experiment with new sounds and vocabulary, play rhyming games, and invent stories—all in line with Geisel’s revolutionary role in changing how we learn to read. The second floor recreates Geisel’s studio and living room (with the furniture and art materials he actually used) and features art, family photographs, and letters, plus the original Geisel Grove sign (which used to hang in Forest Park). You can even find Theophrastus, the toy stuffed dog Ted Geisel’s mother gave him when he was a boy in Springfield.

No time for a visit to the museum? Check out the outdoor **Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden**, where the Cat in the Hat, the Grinch, and other beloved Dr. Seuss characters are immortalized in bronze,

life-size statues

- **Duryea Way** (between Worthington and Taylor Streets) displays a copy of an early automobile that marks where Frank Duryea built America’s first gasoline powered car.
- **Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame** (1000 Hall of Fame Way; www.hoophall.com) highlights the story of basketball, invented in 1891 in Springfield by Dr. James Naismith, and celebrates over 200 inductees with exhibits and interactive displays.
- **Springfield Armory National Historic Site**, One Armory Square, commemorates the critical role of the nation’s first armory by preserving and interpreting the world’s largest collection of historic U.S. military small-arms (along with an excellent archives).

For a list of **50 Springfield Firsts**, see www.springfield-ma.gov/cos/gtk-firsts.

Come a day early or stay for an extra day—there are plenty of firsts to explore in Springfield.

EXHIBIT HALL UPDATE

As of January 16, we have thirty-four exhibitors including Family Tree DNA; Fun Stuff for Genealogists, which offers tons of useful things for the genealogist and family historian; Genealogy House Publishers, who can help turn your family stories and genealogy into a compelling narrative that will be treasured for generations to come; and New England Ancestors/American Ancestors. 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 prices 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.

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!

Some sponsorship opportunities are still available. 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 ACCESSIBILITY TEAM

Potential attendees or registrants with mobility, hearing, or visual concerns impacting your access and participation at this conference are welcome to contact Pam Roberts, NERGC 2023 Accessibility Liaison, at accessibility@nergc.org with a request for a personal response and opportunity to plan ahead for your needs to be met even before you register as you consider your decision to attend.



When you [register online](#) using our paper or digital [brochure](#) you may summarize your needs in writing. Pam is an experienced, retired rehabilitation and inclusion professional. Please indicate your need and briefly comment about what accommodation you might find helpful. We can better plan to meet your mobility, hearing, or visual needs, if you contact Pam at accessibility@nergc.org anytime, before, during registration or after if unexpected concerns arise. She will share information geared to your needs providing details covering the sessions workshops, meals, and exhibit spaces. She will share instructions for entering, parking, and details about available accessible rooms hotel rooms as well as community access from the hotels to the venue. Pam or an accessibility team volunteer will call or email you to design an access plan to help you enjoy your conference experience.

To take the fullest advantage of the accessibility options available, please register during the Early Bird Registration period ending February 15. While we will try to meet your requests whenever you make the decision to register, our ability to meet your needs may be limited, especially if your request comes after April 12, 2023. Referral for rental of scooters and wheelchairs is a possibility before April 12. We have a vendor offering rental fee and we can arrange discounted delivery to the conference center or either of our conference hotels. Other accommodations typically available at the event include reserved seating, source files as possibly accommodations to for those using personal screen reading on their devices, and microphones will be available in most spaces. If you would like to explore the use of an assistive hearing device, please be in touch before the February 15 Early Bird discounted registration. Please contact Pam at accessibility@nergc.org or make your needs known when you register, and we will problem solve with you for your best possible experience. Expect our attention to your personal situation with the goal of supporting your needs. During the conference we will have an accessibility table presence in the welcome area near registration and contact cards available for text, email, or in-person communication options to meet. Stay connected and enjoy the conference. We welcome your ideas and feedback.

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 in February!