

17th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



May 3-6, 2023
Springfield, Massachusetts

E-zine 5, February 9, 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.

New England Regional Genealogical Conference

NERGC

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15

Don't miss the chance to register for the 17th New England Regional Genealogical Conference before the Early Bird Deadline ends on Feb. 15th. A PDF version of the conference brochure is available [here](#). It contains the full conference schedule, summaries of lectures, speaker biographies, and information on available luncheons, banquets, Wednesday activities, and more. Register online [here](#). To register by mail, see the last page of the brochure.

Save \$20 - Register by February 15th!

At NERGC 2023 you'll find:

- Featured Speakers: Rich Venezia and Dr. Michael D. Lacopo
- Over 100 lectures to choose from, with levels ranging from beginner to expert
- Seven workshops
- Four optional Special Research Tracks on Wednesday
- The Exhibit Hall
- Society Fair
- Libraries, Archives, and Museums Showcase
- Special Workshops
- Special Interest Groups
- The Ancestors Road Show
- Socializing and Networking
- And much, much more!

HOW TO REGISTER FOR NERGC 2023

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 the 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.

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. (Note: the link will say "Marriott" because Sheraton is owned by Marriott International.)

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.

Note on availability: This information may change from day to day as reservations are made or canceled, but as of February 7, 2023, it looks like this:

- The Sheraton has rooms available all nights.
- The Marriott is sold out Thursday and Friday nights but has availability Tuesday night and Saturday night.

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

DEADLINES TO REMEMBER:

- February 15—the last day of "Early Bird" discount price on the 3-day full registration ticket.
- Coming soon—the last day to purchase booth space in the Exhibit Hall.
- 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.

WORKSHOPS AT NERGC 2023

Workshops at NERGC are longer sessions with smaller audiences. They offer the attendee a chance to delve into a subject with an expert instructor for a full two hours! This year we're offering two types of workshops—pre-conference and conference.

Wednesday's pre-conference workshops run from 4:30-6:30 at a cost of \$30. These are set up for those who can attend after other pre-conference activities, those who can come after work, and those who arrive early for the conference. The four topics are Proof Arguments, New England Land Records, Solving Photo Mysteries, and Clues from the Census.

One conference workshop is offered each day for those who register for the full or one-day conference. These come with an added cost of \$25. Thursday's option is from 8:00-10:00 in the morning for "Getting Into Genealogy," a great way for a beginner to get started before enjoying the remainder of the conference! Friday's workshop is "Principals of Source Documentation Made Easy" from 8:30-10:30 in the morning. On Saturday, the workshop option is from 1:45-3:45 in the afternoon—"U.S. Catholic Records."

Digital materials for each workshop will be distributed at the end of April to those who register for the workshop. We certainly hope one of these will be of interest to you, but there are also 100 sessions to choose from as part of the conference. Join us for Genealogy Fun in Springfield, Massachusetts!

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.

MEALS FOR WEDNESDAY PRE-CONFERENCE

The Meals Committee worked with the MassMutual Center to provide box lunches for the pre-conference on Wednesday. The box lunch will contain a sandwich, chips, salad, cookie, and a bottle of water. The choices of sandwiches are:

Godfather—Italian Combo: Smoked salami, capicola, smoked provolone cheese, roasted peppers, pickled red onions, red wine aioli served on ciabatta.

Fat Bird—Turkey & cheese: Shaved turkey, Swiss cheese, baby greens with sweet grain mustard aioli, caramelized onions served on marble rye.

Santorini—Vegetarian: Asparagus, artichokes, red peppers, olives, sautéed couscous with red onion and hummus in flour tortilla wrap.

Purchasing the box lunch for \$33.00 and staying in the MMC will allow time for a relaxing lunch plus the opportunity to talk with colleagues who attended the pre-conference workshop.

DON'T MISS THE LUNCHEONS AND BANQUETS!

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 as low a cost as possible. 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 use the paper registration form on the back page of the brochure.



To add a meal to an existing registration, simply go back to the registration form and enter a new order, using the same email as your original order, and just add a meal.

DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

The MassMutual Center assures us that they will provide for special dietary needs. Gluten-free bread is available. For non-dairy guests, they can prepare sandwiches without cheese. For those attending the Friday luncheon with Table Topics, the chicken salad will be grilled sliced chicken and the protein on the vegetarian salad will be quinoa and chickpeas. They will serve a vegetarian and gluten-free soup of fresh greens and legumes.

The online registration process and the paper form both provide an opportunity to describe specific dietary needs. Complete the registration form, select the meals, and we will contact you to determine the best way to accommodate your request. Remember, if you have questions relating to special meal requests, please email meals@nergc.org.

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 (\$20.00) or a PDF file on a flash drive (\$9.00), either of which must be ordered by March 26, 2023. 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.

The printed syllabus and flash drive will not be available for sale at the Conference. A printed NERGC syllabus is a genealogical resource you will consult many times over the years. Don't forget to include a printed syllabus in your registration order. To add a printed syllabus to an existing registration, simply go back to the registration form and enter a new order, using the same email as your original order, and just add a printed syllabus.

INTRODUCING THE CONFERENCE APP

Our official conference app, Whova, will help you improve your conference experience. With the app, you can:

- View the event **agenda** and plan your schedule
- Ask speakers questions in **Session Q&A**
- Plan in-person or virtual meetups with your fellow attendees
- Receive updates such as **last-minute schedule changes** from the organizers
- Ask the conference organizers questions

Watch for more information in the next E-zine.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Enthusiasm is always high for these popular, informal mini gatherings, which will be held on Thursday evening, May 4 at 7:15pm, at the Mass Mutual Center. It's an opportunity to meet and share with conference participants and hosts on a wide range of topics. Popular past topics will be offered along with several new topics. The confirmed SIGS gatherings include:

DNA

Moderator: Kelli Jo Bergheimer

DNA continues to be a popular tool for genealogy research. Join the open discussion, moderated by Kelli Jo Bergheimer, to gain a better understanding of DNA and how it can help your research.

French-Canadian Research

Moderator: Johanne Gervais

Unique challenges face those researching French-Canadian ancestry, despite excellent records. Join the discussion, moderated by Johanne Gervais, to better understand the records that can help overcome any obstacles.

Irish Research

Moderator: Pamela Holland

Join this SIG, moderated by Pam Holland, to share the sources, resources, strategies, challenges, and successes of researching Irish ancestors, both in the United States and Ireland.

Jewish Research

Moderator: Jessie Klein

Joining this SIGS, moderated by Jessie Klein, will allow for the open discussion of the challenges and strategies in researching your Jewish ancestors, both in the United States and in Europe

LGBTQ+

Moderator: Michael Leclerc

Join Michael as he leads the open discuss on the unique methods and strategies for researching and documenting your LGBTQ+ family members.

Military Research

Moderator: Kathleen Kaldis

Join Kathleen and other conference attendees for an open discussion on the ins and outs of researching military records and finding your ancestors in these records.

Polish Research

Moderators: Aleksandra Kacprzak and Lucjan Cichocki

Join Aleksandra Kacprzak and Lucjan Cichocki for a brief overview of Polish genealogical research sources available online and then a lively discussion about your research questions. Aleksandra and Lucjan are both professional genealogists in Poland, bringing their many years of experience to us for this meeting.

Writing

Moderator: William Cole

This SIG gathering and discussion, moderated by author William Cole, should inspire you to write your ancestor's stories, whether it is a few paragraphs, a short story or book you may consider publishing.

Watch for other SIGS topics to be confirmed.

Springfield: Historic and Architectural Sites

If you need a short break from sitting through so many exciting lectures, consider taking a short walk around the neighborhood to investigate some of Springfield's architectural treasures.

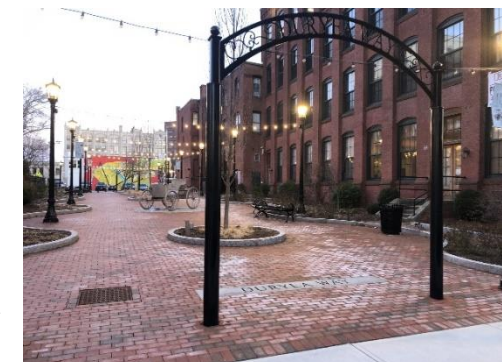
Pride runs deep in Springfield, which is a diverse city where neighbors work together to make a better community. Springfield is known as the "City of Homes" for its Victorian mansions and collection of unique architecture as well as the multitude of single-family homes constructed for manufacturing workers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Court Square (Main & Court Streets) is surrounded by several noteworthy buildings. Old First Church (1819) was the fourth meeting house on the site dating back to 1637. Neo-Classical City Hall and Symphony Hall (1909) flank the Campanile, a bell and clock tower similar to St. Mark's in Venice, Italy. Bronze bas-reliefs of Springfield history adorn the front doors. The granite former county courthouse (1871) was designed by important 19th century architect H. H. Richardson. The elaborate Court Square Building (1892) is slated to be renovated for housing. One of the oldest commercial buildings remaining in the city is the small brick Byers Block (1835). The President McKinley Memorial is located behind the church.

Duryea Way (between Worthing and Taylor Streets)—A copy of an early automobile marks where Frank Duryea built America's first gasoline powered car. The second Duryea car was built just around the corner in the Stacy building (1830) at 49 Taylor Street.

Historic Mattoon Street (Mattoon & Elliot Streets)—Developed between 1870 and 1890, Mattoon Street is one of the few in the region with high style brick Victorian row houses. Former Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien grew up at 42 Mattoon Street. The brownstone church was designed by H. H. Richardson and features Tiffany windows.

Merrick Park & The Puritan Sculpture (Chestnut & State Streets)—The bronze statue of Samuel Chapin, one of Springfield's founders, was created by famous sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Bordering the park are the Renaissance Revival Central Library (1909) and the brownstone Christ Church Episcopal Church (1874). Across State Street is one of Springfield's architectural gems designed by the noted Boston architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns.



SOCIETY FAIR



We are very happy to welcome back many of our Participating Societies, as well as the family associations that have been with us for years, including our favorite cemetery association. There are several new groups that we are welcoming for this conference: The Betty Allen Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Women Descendants of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company, and the Genealogical Federation of Long Island. The Thursday evening function should be very informative and a great place to socialize and check out all the information available.

There is still a limited number of tables available. Don't wait. The space is filling up fast. Contact SocietyFair@nergc.org for information.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND MUSEUMS SHOWCASE

The interest in our Libraries, Archives & Museums Showcase has been amazing. Since our last E-zine, we have added two new participants: Kent Memorial Library of Suffield, Connecticut., and the Windsor Historical Society—the cornerstone of the event, as this will be their fourth appearance.

There is still space available on both Friday and Saturday to showcase special collections to the attendees. For more information, please email LAMShowcase@nergc.org.

Here are write-ups of the of the collections the Wilbraham Library and Windsor Historical Society will be presenting:

The Wilbraham Public Library is pleased to showcase a selection of materials from their Local History Collection including photographs, manuscripts, and Town Reports going back to 1876, and finding aids created by staff based on the most common questions received. The photographs in particular show a variety of people and places in Wilbraham and the South Parish (present-day Hampden) which, together with printed materials and manuscripts in the collection, are a treasure trove for genealogists and local historians.

Windsor Historical Society's research library and archives house extensive historical resources relating to the town of Windsor and its people, as well as materials that explore topics of local and regional interest. Highlights include thousands of historic photographs, 17th- to 20th-century primary documents, (many indexed by date and family name), more than 350 published genealogies of Windsor-related families, copies of local cemetery records and vital records, regional and state histories, town reports, local newspapers, school yearbooks, city directories, and maps, among many other resources.

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.

EXHIBIT HALL UPDATE

There are still some exhibit booth spaces available, but **THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND PURCHASE IS COMING SOON!**

Application and payment can be made at:

<https://nergc.org/product-category/exhibit-hall/>

Among this year's exhibitors are *TLARA* (The Irish Ancestral Research Association) and *Friends of Irish Research*, each of which will have a booth and help you advance discovery of your Irish roots.

The Photo Detective will be able to give you information on photo identification and more.

Civil War Records will be able to assist you in finding record information about ancestors or relatives that served in that war.



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.

NERGC ACCESSIBILITY TEAM REMINDERS AND UPDATES

Potential attendees or registrants with mobility, hearing, or visual concerns impacting access and participation at this conference are welcome to contact Pam Roberts, NERGC 2023 Accessibility Liaison, BY EMAIL (accessibility@nergc.org) at your earliest convenience. Thank you if you have already connected!

- If you are already registered and filled out the registration form with accessibility items identifying your needs, Pam will email you to arrange a call scheduled on Eastern Time Zone to clarify your needs. If you identified dietary needs on your registration, those responses are also sent to Fran Nadeau, Meals Chair, who will be in touch with you.
- Once Pam communicates by email giving her cell number, you are welcome to call her directly using audio call, virtual call, VM (or Text if you don't get through). Some of you may want assurances of how we can meet your needs BEFORE February 15 when Early Bird registration closes. The best time to reach Pam is from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. most days, especially February 10 through 13 as you work toward confirming your needs before February 15.
- Note that eventually for all with an accessibility plan, Pam will need your itinerary or "agenda" — your choices of topic/presenters for each session time slot, Thursday through Saturday, for your chosen track on Wednesday, if any, as well as any workshops Wednesday through Saturday. Once you register, you will be given the opportunity to fill out your agenda on the Whova conference mobile app. Pam can also assist you with that should you need help. Making your session choices no later than March 20th will be important to her implementation of the plans made for you for access to accommodation. Note that some people find it easier to use a website version of the app. Should you wish to use the computer website version of the app, contact Pam, who can assist you. She also can administratively assist your choices and will have access to choices you make in the app.
- Pam will share instructions for entering, parking, and details about the accessible hotel rooms. Information about the clear, accessible pedestrian way to and from the venue will be available one month prior to the event. However, Pam is glad to share information important to your decision to register whenever your questions arise and before online registration closes as well as onsite if we can help in small ways, but all equipment, large print, or interpreter accommodations must be set up prior to the conference opening and will not be available onsite unless prearranged.



We aim to welcome all and hope we can assist you in having an awesome, accessible experience at NERGC 2023. During the conference, we will have an accessibility table presence in the welcome area near Registration on the first floor of the MassMutual Center starting on Wednesday and running through Saturday evening. Storage space for the pick-up of equipment arranged by Pam will be available through Monday morning.

Stay connected and enjoy the conference. We welcome your ideas and feedback (accessibility@nergc.org).

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 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 on February 23!