

17th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



May 3-6, 2023
Springfield, Massachusetts

E-zine 7, March 16, 2023



Just when you thought he had flown away, everyone's favorite bird is back, the Early Bird! The NERGC Board has voted to extend the early bird discount until the end of March, bringing a savings of \$20 on each full conference registration. (Those who paid full price since February 16th have been contacted to process a refund of \$20.) <https://nergc.org/>

New England's Premiere Genealogical Conference — NERGC — is returning to the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, May 3-6, 2023. NERGC 2023 will feature eight session tracks with 100+ talks, seven workshops, a large exhibit hall with vendors and genealogical societies, SIGs, Ancestors Road Show, Society Fair, the Libraries, Archives, and Museums Showcase, and so much more.

Whether you are a genealogical novice just getting started or a seasoned professional, there is something at NERGC 2023 for you. We cover the full gamut of New England genealogy, from colonial-era research to genetic genealogy, from military research to writing for publications, from methodology to technology. There are talks that focus in on each of the New England states, as well as various ethnic groups in New England, including Native American, African America, Irish, French Canadian, Jewish, and Polish.

You can [browse our program online](#) or [download a PDF of our brochure](#) to learn more.

Or, if you want to see what presentations and workshops align with your interests, [take a look at our topical index here](#).

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 Early Bird Full Registration is \$190 through March 31; Full Registration is \$210 April 1 and after. Single day registration for Thursday, Friday, or Saturday is available for \$85.

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! Speakers were asked to state the audience level they associate with the proposed presentation. You'll find these in the upper right corner of the boxes in the schedule section of the conference brochure. We defined the levels as:

- (N) Novice – Someone new to this topic, ethnicity, or record type
- (I) Intermediate – Someone with some experience in this topic, ethnicity, or record type
- (A) Advanced – Someone with general experience in this topic, ethnicity, or record type
- (E) Experienced – Someone with widespread experience in this topic, ethnicity, or record type
- (G) General Interest – Informational and not related to research experience

To Register

Online

You can register and pay by credit card at our [registration page](#).

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, have been 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 use that code when registering.

CONFERENCE BROCHURE UPDATE

A few errors in the conference brochure came to light since the last e-Zine.

The New England Track session, Rhode Island: What's New Online on Saturday morning at 8:30 is sponsored by RIGS. The Sessions for 10:00 a.m. Friday are missing their level designations. They are:

- F-203 – Untangling New Hampshire Manuscripts – I
- F-205 – French-Canadian Genealogy – N
- F-207 – Researching Mary Drummond, Oldest Native Negro in New Bedford – N
- F-209 – Researching Native Americans in Colonial Massachusetts Records – I
- F-211 – Massachusetts Privateers: Revolutionary War & War of 1812 – I
- F-213 – Understanding Often Overlooked Annotations on Passenger Lists – I
- F-215 – How to Research Adoption in Your Family Tree - I

INTERMEDIATE SESSIONS

Over half the sessions at NERGC 2023 are rated by the presenters as Intermediate. In our Call for Papers we defined Intermediate as “Someone with some experience in this topic, ethnicity, or record type”. The Intermediate sessions cover topics on New England research, Methodology, Specific Sources, Social History, Ethnic Research, Military Research, Immigrant Research, Filling in Missing Branches, DNA Research, Forensic Genealogy, and Using Technology in your Research.

Remember that you have different levels of expertise in various types of research as well as the ethnicities and geographic locations you need to research. If you select sessions by the level designation, please keep this in mind. After all, genealogical research takes us into many places, ages, and record types – few are experienced with all of them!

WEDNESDAY PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

The main conference starts on Thursday, May 4th, but those who plan to arrive in Springfield a day early can sign up to participate in one of our four pre-conference tracks on Wednesday May 3rd. Although these events each have a registration fee, full conference registration is NOT required. To add a Wednesday track, workshop, or box lunch 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 add the additional tickets.

SPECIAL RESEARCH TRACKS, 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. (\$50 EACH; OPTIONAL BOX LUNCH \$33)

- Revolutionary War
- Advanced DNA (sponsored by Family Tree DNA)
- Jumpstart Your Research
- French Canadian Research

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TWO-HOUR WORKSHOPS, 4:30-6:30 P.M. (\$30 EACH):

- Prove It! Writing a Winning Proof Argument” (Nora Galvin)
- Getting to the Heart of Land Records (Sara E. Campbell)
- Solving Photo Mysteries: Approaches & Analysis (Maureen Taylor)
- Bridging The Decades: Little-Used Clues from the Census (Elissa Scalise Powell).

A TOPICAL INDEX TO NERGC 2023 PRESENTATIONS

The NERGC 2023 Brochure is a great resource for getting a compact, day-by-day, hour-by-hour view of the conference. But what if you want to find all the sessions related to DNA? Or all of them about Irish ancestry? Or are all of them about Vermont? You need to do quite a bit of hunting to track that information down.

Until now...

Introducing the New Topic Index of NERGC 2023 sessions, the fastest way to track down which sessions are in your area(s) of interest. A listing of sessions relating to researching the New England states is provided below. For more entries, see <https://nergc.org/topical-index/>

DNA

- Segment by Segment: Analyzing Endogamous DNA (Ferretti) Wed. 9:15am
- DNA. MPE? OMG!: Addressing Surprises in Your DNA (Newman) Wed. 10:30am
- Introduction to Big Y (Cloud) Wed. 1:15am
- What Can You Learn from a DNA Sibling Study? (Bergheimer) Wed. 2:30pm
- Following the Trail of Shared Matches (Kenney) Sat. 8:30am
- DNA Delivers Deceased Daddy to Adoptee (Bjork) Sat. 10:00am
- Solving 18th Century Genealogical Dilemmas with Autosomal DNA (Lacopo) Sat. 1:45pm
- Integrating DNA And Family History Research at MyHeritage (Horowitz) Sat. 3:15pm
- DNA and Endogamy: Making Sense of It All (Newman) Sat. 4:45pm

UPDATED DEADLINES:

- Coming soon—the last day to purchase booth space in the Exhibit Hall.
- April 2—the last day to request sign language or another form of interpreter help.
- March 26—the last day to order a printed syllabus or a syllabus on a USB flash drive.
- March 31—Early Bird registration ends.
- April 3—the last day to request a scooter rental.
- 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 email registration@nergc.org.
If you have a more general question about the conference, email: nergc-help@nergc.org.*

HOTEL INFORMATION

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.

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: As of today, most rooms in our blocs at the conference hotel are sold out for the dates of the conference, though the status could change from day to day. It is worth checking the above two hotels first. If no rooms are available there, the MassMutual Center has a [page listing other area hotels](#). Note in particular that the Holiday Inn Express and the MGM are an easy walk to the conference, and the others are a short drive away.

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

VOLUNTEERS AT NERGC 2023

As of the end of February, there were still over 200 opportunities for you to volunteer at NERGC 2023! While options exist for all facets of the conference, most in need are clerical assistance for the Ancestor Road Show, the Hospitality and ADA Tables. Of course, there are plenty of sessions in need of door monitors and hosts or hostesses as well. If you are participating in a track or workshop, please consider the openings for those as we prefer that they are filled by participants. Remember, we keep prices low by having volunteers working throughout our conference. Volunteers are our *priceless resource* at NERGC!

ATTENTION POTENTIAL ANCESTORS ROAD SHOW CONSULTANTS



The Ancestors Road Show is the place for giving or getting help. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to have a free 20-minute consultation with a professional genealogist. We hope that many of the great professional genealogist/speakers attending the Conference will participate as consultants. The link to sign up as a consultant is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0949a9a82aa6fd0-nergc#/>

NERGC Ancestors Roadshow Committee, ars@nergc.org.

FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Transportation: *Getting To and Around Springfield*

DRIVING

Downtown Springfield is right off Route I-91. For best results, use GPS or Google Maps. Currently there are sections of I-91 in Massachusetts under construction. Work could affect exit/entrance ramps and parts of I-291.

PARKING

See the dedicated Parking page (<https://nergc.org/parking-near-the-massmutual-center/>).

BUS

Three bus lines service Springfield: FlixBus, Greyhound, and Peter Pan. For bus service from Boston's Logan Airport to Springfield, see "Bus Service from Logan" below.

- **FlixBus.** All buses arrive in Springfield at MGM Grand Springfield located at One MGM Way. From there, it is about a 7-minute walk to the Mass Mutual Center. Tickets must be purchased online. Buses are wheelchair accessible, but this accommodation must be specified when tickets are purchased. For additional information, schedules, and ticket prices see <https://www.flixbus.com/>.
- **Greyhound.** There are two stops in Springfield both conveniently located to the Mass Mutual Center: Springfield Union Station (66 Lyman Street; 11-minute walk to the Mass Mutual Center) and MGM Grand Springfield (One MGM Way; 7-minute walk to the Mass Mutual Center). Tickets must be purchased online or at a full-service terminal. All Greyhound buses are wheelchair accessible. For additional information, schedules, and ticket prices see <https://www.greyhound.com/> or call 800-231-2222.
- **Peter Pan.** All buses arrive in Springfield at Springfield Union Station located at 66 Lyman Street. It is about an 11-minute walk to the Mass Mutual Center. The ticket counter is open from 7:45 AM to 7:15 PM Thursday through Sunday and from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Tuesday and Wednesday. All Peter Pan buses are wheelchair accessible. For additional information, schedules, and ticket prices see www.springfieldunionstation.com or <https://peterpanbus.com/>

TRAIN

Amtrak trains arrive at Springfield Union Train Station located at 66 Lyman Street which is an 11-minute walk or a short taxi ride to the Mass Mutual Center. For additional information, schedules, and ticket prices see <https://www.amtrak.com/home.html> or call 800-USA-RAIL. Accessibility information can be obtained at <https://www.amtrak.com/accessible-travel-services>.

TAXIS

- Ace Taxi: 413-781-7777
- Tommy's Taxi : 413-534-3333
- PHL Airport Taxi & Car Service: 610-653-0033

RENTAL CARS

- Avis, 100 Congress St, Springfield, MA 01104, 413-733-3092Natali
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car, 765 E Columbus Ave, Springfield, MA 01105, 413-739-2344
- SIXT Rent-a-Car, 504 St. James Avenue, Springfield, MA 01109, 413-731-6900



TOURS

King Gray Coach Lines offers charter services for groups of any size. The fleet features 56 luxury motor coaches, wheelchair accessible coaches, 14- and 25- passenger mini-buses, and 5/6-passenger mini-vans. To arrange a charter, call 413-593-3939 for an immediate quote, or use the request a quote form (<https://www.king-gray.com/contact-us.html>) for a response within one business day.

FLYING

Bradley International Airport (BDL). The nearest airport is Bradley International Airport. The airport is approximately 13 miles south of downtown Springfield.

The general information number for Bradley International Airport is 860 594 2530. Accessibility information for Bradley Airport can be found at <https://bradleyairport.com/learn/accessibility/>. The estimated taxi fare is between \$95 and \$120.

Logan International Airport (BOS). Logan International Airport is located in Boston, MA, and is approximately 95 miles east of Springfield. Boston Logan Airport has three terminals for domestic flights: A, B, and C. A map and terminal guide is available at <https://www.ifly.com/logan-international-airport/terminal-map>.

There are several public and private transportation options to Springfield.

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) provides complimentary shuttle bus service between the terminals and the MBTA Blue Line (subway).

Getting to South Station: Both bus and train service from Boston to Springfield leave from South Station. The MBTA Silver Line buses stop at each terminal at Logan and are FREE going to South Station. It takes approximately 35 minutes to get from Logan to South Station. (You will have to pay \$2.40 on the return trip, however.)

Bus Service from Logan: Peter Pan Bus Lines has daily bus service between Springfield and Logan. Buses depart from South Station and are equipped with Wi-Fi, DVD players, and iPod jacks. The trip takes anywhere from 2 ½ to 4 ½ hours, depending on the schedule. Visit <https://peterpanbus.com/> for schedules and to buy tickets.

Train Service from Boston: Six daily trains leave Boston from South Station to Springfield. Traveling by train from Boston to Springfield usually takes around 4 ½ hours, but the fastest Amtrak Lake Shore Limited train can make the trip in 2 hours and 24 minutes. Prices range from \$30 (coach) to \$100 (business) and increase the closer you get to the departure date, so reserve early. To make train reservations and access schedules and fees, visit www.amtrak.com.

Rental cars from Logan: All of the major rental car companies operate at Logan International Airport. They include: Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National, Payless, Sixt, and Thrifty. Renting a car is relatively easy at Boston Logan Airport. Take a free shuttle bus, located at the lower level of each terminal, to The Car Rental Center at 15 Transportation Way. Car rental at Boston Airport includes a complimentary shuttle to the airport terminals after you have returned the car.

Travelers with Disabilities: Massport Shuttle Buses serve all terminals at approximately 10-minute intervals; all buses are equipped with wheelchair lifts. They also serve the MBTA Airport Station, Logan Water Shuttle dock, and Economy Parking. Buses are equipped with a visual and audio stop announcement system. Distances from curbside drop off areas to airline ticket counters vary from 50 – 200 feet. Curbside skycap services are available from most airlines. Additional information regarding ADA compliance and accessibility information for Logan Airport and the Massport Shuttles can be found at <https://www.massport.com/logan-airport/inside-the-airport/ada-compliance-and-accessibility/>.

NOTE: *Schedules, fees, and availability of transportation services can and do change frequently. Contact the company directly to confirm the options for your plans to travel to Springfield and NERGC 2023.*

LEARN WHILE YOU EAT!

Meal selection is still open! Meals at the NERGC 2023 conference are open to everyone. You don't need to be registered for the conference to participate Exhibitors, volunteers, friends, relatives are all welcome! You can add meals or make changes to meal selection up to the Meals Deadline of April 15. 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.

Ordering meals through NERGC is important because the MassMutual Center prohibits bringing outside food or drink into the building. They will enforce this rule. Our meals provide vegetarian selections. In addition, we will try to accommodate special dietary needs. Just note your dietary need on the registration form. If you have specific questions, you may email a member of the Meals Committee at meals@nergc.org.

Along with presentations galore on the full panoply of topics related to New England genealogy, our luncheons and banquets include a delicious meal, time to share experiences with colleagues after a day of lectures and workshops, and the opportunity to hear knowledgeable speakers. Prior to the banquets, a cash bar will be available at 6:00 p.m., with dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Friday Night Banquet, sponsored by the Connecticut Society of Genealogists \$49.00

The meal includes a choice of meat lasagna (ground beef) or vegetable lasagna (eggplant, zucchini, roasted red peppers & spinach). Those who requested gluten free will receive a terrine of layered vegetables. On the table will be garden salad, rolls & butter, and ice water. Regular coffee will be on the table; decaf coffee and tea will be provided. The meal includes a light dessert of sherbet with fresh fruit.

Featured speaker, Michael L. Strauss, AG will present "Prisoners, Thieves, and Scoundrels: Your Black Sheep Ancestors." This presentation will focus on a variety of genealogical records for both men and women who brushed up against the law. Discover valuable resources found in Federal, State, and local records from which we can glean details about black sheep ancestors.

Saturday Night Banquet, sponsored by the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists \$66.00

The meal includes a choice of chicken (grilled chicken breast with fresh tomato & basil sauce) or stuffed haddock (haddock rolled around stuffing with lemon butter sauce). A vegetarian option will be available for those who requested this special dietary meal. In addition, there will be rice pilaf and a vegetable. On the table will be garden salad, rolls & butter, and ice water. Regular coffee will be on the table; decaf coffee and tea will be provided. The dessert will be lemon cake with blueberry coulis.

Dr. Michael Lacopo will present "Top Ten Things I Have Learned in Four Decades of Genealogical Research." Join Dr. Lacopo on a trip down Memory Lane and share his tales of serendipity, woe, discovery and frustration...with a touch of humor. Put away your notebooks and prepare to nod in agreement at things only fellow genealogist would understand.

TABLE TOPICS LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY NEAPG

The popular Table Topics Luncheon will be back again this year on Friday, May 5. The event, sponsored by the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, features informal discussions on particular genealogical topics, each led by a member of NEAPG.

Some of the planned discussion include DNA, Research in New England States, Ethnic Research, Writing, French-Canadian Genealogy, and Brick Walls.

To participate, please register for the Table Topics Luncheon on the NERGC registration page, and plan to visit NEAPG's booth at the exhibit hall before Friday, May 5 to sign up for the topic of your choice. If you have already completed your NERGC registration, it's not too late to add the luncheon. Simply [enter a new order](#), using the same email as your original order, and add the luncheon.

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL DIETARY NEED?

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

Download the app; then login with the same email address you used to register for the conference.



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 are listed below. Watch for other SIG topics to be confirmed.

DNA

Moderator: Kelli Jo Berghheimer

French-Canadian Research

Moderator: Johanne Gervais

Irish Research

Moderator: Pamela Holland

Jewish Research

Moderator: Jessie Klein

LGBTQ+

Moderator: Michael Leclerc

Military Research

Moderator: Kathleen Kaldis

Polish Research

Moderators: Aleksandra Kacprzak and Lucjan Cichocki

Writing

Moderator: William Cole

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.

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. Still fielding inquiries about evening and hoping to add additional societies to visit. The Thursday evening function should be very informative and a great place to socialize and check out all the information available.

There continues to be interest from organizations in signing up for the Society Fair, but only a limited number of tables are still available. We provide the table and two chairs, free signage and a captive audience. Don't wait. Contact SocietyFair@nergc.org for more information.



Maine Old Cemetery Association

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS SHOWCASE



The interest in our Libraries, Archives & Museums Showcase has been amazing. This is also generating interest and look forward to responses from deliberating libraries.

In this ezine, we are highlighting the Vermont Archives and the Kent Memorial Library in Suffield CT.

The Vermont State Archives consists of state public records that have continuing value to the State of Vermont and its citizens. Vermont archival records document the rights of citizens, the decisions of government and the history of the State of Vermont. Because many of these records reflect the interactions of individuals with their government, the State Archives is a useful resource for genealogists

and family historians with Vermont connections. Records often used by genealogists include vital records, court records, records of state institutions, and newspapers. The Manuscript Vermont State Papers document the names of thousands of Vermonters between 1777 and 1865 that had interactions with government, from petitions to grand lists and beyond. The Vermont Historical Records Program, based at the State Archives, promotes statewide initiatives, and will share some opportunities for genealogists to contribute their expertise to current projects.

The Kent Memorial Library in Suffield, Connecticut is unique. This current building opened in 1972, and it is the only free-standing public building designed by Warren Platner. After Suffield, he designed many interiors including Windows on the World, which was the restaurant at the top of the World Trade Center, and the American Restaurant in Kansas City. The ADA compliant public library has access, for onsite patrons, a selection of genealogy and historical resources including Ancestry.com, Fold3 by Ancestry, the Connecticut State Library Marriage/Death Indexes from 1897 through 2001, Suffield Digital Historical Room Project, Famous Residents of Suffield including Voices from the Past (which are their diaries from 1784 through 1802, all online and searchable. In addition, it is a Family Search Affiliate Library.

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.

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/exhibit-hall/>

Among this year's exhibitors are authors Bill Cole, the "Passionate Genealogist", and Sarah Dixwell Brown. Sarah is **directly descended from John Dixwell, one of the 59 men who condemned Charles I to death for "high crimes and treason" against his own people.** Her book *Regicide in the Family: Finding John Dixwell* tells the engaging story of one of the Regicides escaping England and eventually setting in New England and shows how a surprising and interesting discovery in one's genealogy can actually end up as a published book.

QUERIES

A Query Board will be set up in the lobby area of the MassMutual Center. The preferred format uses standard abbreviations and the date written as 27 July 1927. Show birth, death, marriage in that order, with event location shown before date and all known information stated before the question is asked. Remember to include your contact information!

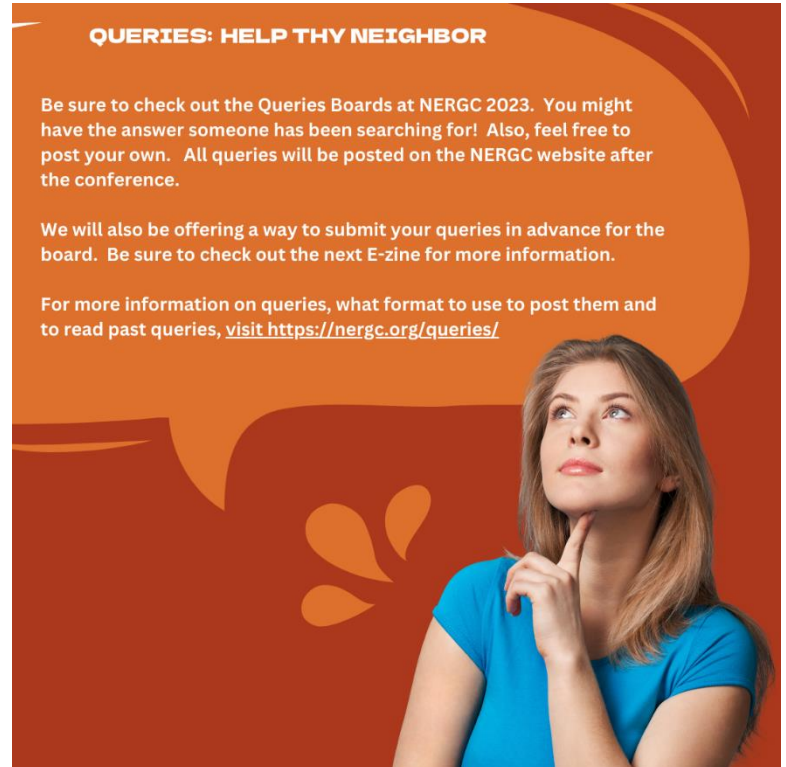
SAMPLE QUERY: JONES, Mehetable, b. Hartford CT abt 1790, m. Middletown, CT 23 Mar 1823 to BUSHNELL, John b. Hartford OR Wethersfield, CT c 1785 Need bdt, par of John.

QUERIES: HELP THY NEIGHBOR

Be sure to check out the Queries Boards at NERGC 2023. You might have the answer someone has been searching for! Also, feel free to post your own. All queries will be posted on the NERGC website after the conference.

We will also be offering a way to submit your queries in advance for the board. Be sure to check out the next E-zine for more information.

For more information on queries, what format to use to post them and to read past queries, visit <https://nergc.org/queries/>



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the NERGC conference. That's one thing that helps keep our prices lower than so many other regional conferences. From Wednesday morning through Saturday's banquet there are opportunities for you to loan your time to the conference to keep things running smoothly! We start on Wednesday with tasks for check-in at pre-conference events and the congenial task of helping to stuff envelopes and tote bags for conference registrations. Conference check-in will open on Wednesday afternoon and requires many volunteers from Wednesday through Saturday. Other opportunities to volunteer include being the host or hostess for a session (introducing and working with the speaker), being the door monitor for a session (checking badges, collecting evaluations, and controlling lighting), answering questions in the hallway, helping with Exhibitor check in on Wednesday, and working at the Hospitality or Volunteer table.

Credit for your volunteer hours is given to one of the participating societies in fulfillment of their agreement to provide conference volunteers. Help the conference and help your society in one fell swoop! You can sign up now for your desired volunteer opportunity from our website: www.nergc.org/volunteers.

NERGC ACCESSIBILITY TEAM REMINDERS AND UPDATES

Don't forget!

While registration will remain open through April 28th, potential attendees or those already registered with mobility, hearing, or visual concerns impacting access and participation at this conference should contact me, Pam Roberts, NERGC 2023 Accessibility Liaison (accessibility@nergc.org), at your earliest convenience.

Need a scooter rental? Deadline for requesting a rental is April 3, 2023

A rental vendor for scooters and other equipment is ready to receive your personal orders should you wish to arrange a rental at \$175 for the whole conference, with delivery to the venue or hotel for your convenience. **Email accessibility@nergc.org NOW.**

Interested in an assisted personal listening device?

We will be deciding on how many, if any, we request. We have a quote from a vendor and MUST confirm an order before March 25, 2023. If you registered and identified a need in your registration form but have not heard back, you should have already received a call or email from me. Be sure to check your spam and junk mail and respond or email again. If you are interested in attending, please register NOW indicating your need for accommodations so follow-up can occur, and your needs can be addressed.

Need Sign Language or another form of interpreter help used by persons who are deaf or blind?

Do you have access to a portable device (smart phone or tablet or laptop) you would like to use during the conference to access audio to text screen capabilities? Do you have headphones you could use during a session to turn text to audio or audio to text? Do you use headphones to hear the written word if you need spoken language access to written material? Please be in touch by no later than March 25, as it takes up to six weeks to request and receive a confirmation to secure a sign language interpreter. If you know of an "ASL sign language interpreter" available in the greater Springfield area, let me know. We will work toward meeting your needs. Email accessibility@nergc.org NOW.

Vendors inventory may be limited, and confirmation and reservation for equipment or interpreter services will be on a first come first served basis.

Hotel reservations must be begun by you by following the instructions given. But if you are having difficulty getting what you need, do contact me and I can help you advocate for what you need.

Is accessible parking still a concern even after reading the Hospitality article in E-zine 6? Watch for more specific updates and pictures from a Springfield visit I will make at least two weeks before the conference.

Please use your invitation to take advantage of the Mobile App to set your preferred itinerary by identifying the sessions you hope to attend each day, what meals you are attending, etc. BUT if you need to have other supports, I will need your itinerary or "agenda" as Whova calls it. Please follow the instructions in your registration confirmation. Sign into Whova and fill out your AGENDA no later than April 2; earlier if possible. Let me know if you need help, and we can do it together.

Stay connected and enjoy the conference. Stop by to check in at the Accessibility table near registration on arrival. We welcome your ideas and feedback. Pam Roberts (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.