

17th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



May 3–6, 2023
Springfield, Massachusetts

E-zine 10, April 27, 2023



It is hard to believe, but New England's Premiere Genealogical Conference — NERGC — is now less than a week away! Returning to the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, May 3-6, NERGC 2023 will feature eight session tracks with 100+ talks. In addition, there will be seven workshops, a large exhibit hall with vendors and genealogical societies, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Ancestors Road Show, Society Fair, the Libraries, Archives, and Museums Showcase, and so much more. 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](#).

Conference and Pre-Conference Tickets

Tickets for the conference, including the Wednesday pre-conference, are still for sale via our [registration website](#). If you have not already ordered, you have until **11:45 p.m. on Friday, April 28th** to do so. The next morning the attendee list gets handed off for printing badges and all that wonderful stuff. So, if you have not yet registered, if you're on the fence, **this is now the time for deciding**. (Or maybe you want to add a pre-conference track or a workshop to an existing registration? You can read more about our workshops [on our website](#).)

If you miss the April 28 deadline, hope is not lost. You can just show up in Springfield during the conference, go to the MassMutual Center and register on site. Single-day tickets will be available for \$85, and a three-day (Thursday through Saturday) full conference ticket at a discounted price of \$210.

If you are not able to dedicate a full day at NERGC, your options include:

- Sign up for a pre-conference workshop on Wednesday. A workshop lasts two hours, and they start at 4:30 p.m.
- You can stop in and visit the [Exhibit Hall](#). No ticket is required for this.
- If you visit Thursday evening 5:30 to 7:30, you can visit [Society Fair](#) as well as the Exhibit Hall. No ticket is required for this.
- The [Libraries, Archives, and Museums Showcase](#) is Friday and Saturday, 10:00 to 3:00. This, also, does not require a ticket.

More information on what is happening at NERGC can be found [on our website](#), especially in [our brochure](#).

*If you have any questions regarding registration specifically, please email registration@nergc.org.
If you have a more general question about the conference, email: nergc-help@nergc.org*

PROGRAM CHANGE

“Challenges of Researching Jewish Names,” Session F-204, will not be presented. In its place, we are offering “My Polish Ancestors Are Online? Using Online Resources for your Genealogical Research” by Aleksandra Kacprzak.

New times, new possibilities, and new challenges! Let’s not get lost in the ’net, and instead do effective research on Polish websites. Genealogical research in Poland is extremely interesting because of its complexity. There were three partitions, different languages, administrative systems, religions, and types of records. Consequently, there are many useful databases and digital archives on the web. Only a few cover the entire territory of Poland’s current and former borders. Many websites and indexing projects concern a specific geographic or cultural area. This lecture will present some of the primary and lesser-known websites that may expand your family tree or even break through those “brick walls” that you are facing.



Aleksandra Kacprzak is a genealogical researcher living in Poland and the owner of the genealogy research company “Genoroots.” Ms. Kacprzak graduated from Copernicus University in Toruń with a degree in archival science and completed the Eastern European Genealogy course in Salt Lake City. She is a genealogical lecturer in both Poland and the United States. In the U.S., she has spoken in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Ms. Kacprzak is a founding member of the Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne [Polish Genealogical Society] and a founding member of the Stowarzyszenie Polscy Profesjonalni Genealodzy [Association of Polish Professional Genealogists]. In addition to her genealogy work, Ms. Kacprzak also provides heir-tracing services for both lawyers and the courts. She is a licensed tour guide, and organizes personal ancestral tours, as well as cultural-oriented tours for larger groups.

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 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 broadly-applicable genealogical techniques is provided below. For more entries, see <https://nergc.org/topical-index/>

Techniques:

- Genograms for Genealogists (Strickland) Th. 1:30pm
- Genealogical Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them! (Vestal) Th. 1:30pm
- Building Your Research Toolkit (Morehead) Th. 3:00pm
- Becoming A Genealogical Thinker Instead of a Genealogical Collector (Lacopo) Th. 3:00pm
- Finding the Elusive Maiden Name (Lawthers) Fri. 8:30am
- Shaking Loose the Clues: Using Timelines to Organize Your Research (Smith) Fri. 1:45pm
- Breaking Through Brick Walls with Cluster Research (Szczeplankiewicz) Fri. 1:45pm
- Are You Really My Ancestor? Sorting Out People with the Same Name (Smith) Fri. 4:45p

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).

FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: DINING OUT

The following is a list of some restaurants that are favorites of locals who enjoy eating out.

Nadim’s Downtown Mediterranean Grill

1390 Main St., Springfield, MA 01103 (0.2 miles from MMC)

Phone: 413-737-7373

Hours: M-F: 11:00 AM to 2:00 p.m.& 4:30 to 9:30 PM.; Sat: 3:00 to 9:30 PM, Sun: closed

Cuisine: Mediterranean, Middle Eastern

Menus: <https://www.nadims.com/menus/>

Red Rose Pizzeria

1060 Main St., Springfield, MA 01103 (0.3 miles from MMC)

Phone: 413-739-8510

Hours: M-Tu: closed; W-Th: 11 AM to 9:00 PM; F-Sat: 11 AM to 9:30 PM; Sun: 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Cuisine: Italian, Pizza

Menus: <https://redrosepizzeria.com/Menus-id-5.html>

Jakalope Restaurant

254 Worthington St., Springfield, MA 01103 (0.3 miles from MMC)

Phone: 413-233-4422

Cuisine: American, Vegan Options

Hours: M-Tu: closed; W, Th, Sun: 4:30 to 9:00 PM; F-Sat: 4:30 to 10:00 PM

Menus <https://www.eatjakalope.com/menu>

Reservations Required

The Student Prince Café & The Fort

8 Fort St., Springfield, MA 01103 (0.4 miles from MMC)

Phone: 413-734-7475

Hours: M-Th: 11 AM to 8:30 PM; F-Sat: 11:00 AM to 9:30 PM; Sun: 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Cuisine: German, Seafood

Menus: <https://www.studentprince.com/menus>

Theodore's Blues, Booze, and BBQ

201 Worthington St., Springfield, MA 01103 (0.4 miles from MMC)

Phone: 413-736-6000

Hours: M-Th: 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM; F: 11:00 to 11:00 PM; Sat: 4:00 to 11:00 PM; Sun: closed

Cuisine: Barbecue

Menus: <https://theodoresbbq.com/bbq/>

Max's Tavern

1000 Hall of Fame Ave., Springfield, MA 01105 (0.9 miles from MMC)

Phone: 413-746-6299

Cuisine: American, Steak, Seafood, Sandwiches

Hours: M-Th: 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM; F-Sat: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM; Sun: 11:00 to 8:00 PM

Menus: <https://www.maxtavern.com/menus>

Reservations Recommended

Latitude Restaurant

1338 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089 (2.0 miles from MMC)

Phone: 413-241-88880

Hours: M: closed; Tu-Th: 4:00 to 10:00 PM; F-Sat: 4:00 to 11:00 PM; Sun: 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Cuisine: American, International

Menus: <https://www.latitude1338.com/menu>

The Federal Restaurant & Bar

135 Cooper St., Agawam, Ma 01001 (3.2 miles from MMC)

Phone: 413-789-1267

Hours: M, Tu, Sun: closed; W: 4:00 to 8:30 PM; Th: 4:00 to 9:00 PM; F-Sat: 4:00 to 9:30 PM

Cuisine: American, Vegetarian Friendly, Vegan Options, Gluten Free Options

Menus: <https://thefederalrestaurant.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022.10.20-Winter-Dinner-web.pdf>

Reservations Required

Kaisen

1325 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 (5.7 miles from MMC)

Phone: 413-209-8554

Cuisine: Sushi, Japanese, Asian Fusion

Hours: M-W: 4:00 to 9:00 PM; Th: 11:30 AM to 9:00 PM; F-Sat: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM; Sun: Noon to 8:00PM

Menus: <https://restaurantguru.com/Kaisen-Agawam/menu>

NOTES:

1. Not all restaurants are within walking distance of the MassMutual Center.
2. Hours of operation can change. Reservations may be necessary or recommended. Contact the restaurant before setting out.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED

There are still unfilled volunteer slots for various pre-conference and conference events. Materials will be provided for all volunteers, and each hour of your time that you donate assists a Participating Society in meeting their contracted obligation for the conference. NERGC not only cherishes its Volunteers, we honor them! Please try to sign up at <https://nergc.org/volunteers/> before April 29 so materials can be prepared in advance of arrival at the venue. Of course, we'll accept new volunteers during the conference as well. THANK YOU !

ANCESTORS ROAD SHOW

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. Signups for Friday will be held Thursday from 12 to 1 p.m. at the Ancestors Roadshow booth in the Exhibit Hall and will resume on Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. Signups for Saturday will open at 11 a.m. on Friday. Participants will be able to select from available consultants based on specialties and at signup will be provided with a brief form for basic information including any known names, dates, locations, or other important information about the research subject(s). Questions? Contact NERGC Ancestors Roadshow Committee, ars@nergc.org.



INTRODUCING THE CONFERENCE APP



All NERGC 2023 registered attendees have access to our official conference app, available for iOS and Android devices, and as a web app. The app is called "Whova". Although the use of this app is entirely optional, if you do install it, login with the same email address you used to register for the conference. You will then have some useful capabilities:

- 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

WHOVA FAQs

1. How much does the app cost? It is free for all conference attendees.
2. What types of devices does the app work with? It works with iOS (Apple) devices as well as Android devices. Combined, these account for the vast majority of smart phones and tablets. If you prefer to use on a laptop or desktop computer you can [use the webapp version](#).
3. What email should I use to login to the app? You should use the same email address you used to register for the conference.
4. What if I already have the Whova app installed from attending an entirely different conference? Look for "Switch Event" menu option from the Home view of the app. Search for "New England Regional Genealogical Conference."

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Enthusiasm is always high for these popular, informal gatherings, which will be held on Thursday evening, May 4 at 7:15 p.m., at the MassMutual Center. It's an opportunity to meet and share with conference participants and hosts on a wide range of topics. The eight SIGS gatherings are DNA, French-Canadian Research, Irish Research, Jewish Research, LGBTQ+, Military Research, Polish Research, and Writing. Once you are in Springfield, check the Thursday Daily Sheet for the room assignment of each gathering.

DID YOU STUDY WITH A PROGEN GROUP?

Did you study with a ProGen Group? There's a meet-up of ProGen Alumni at 5:45 on Friday in the glassed-in area on the second floor of MMC. Stop by and meet a classmate in person, create a group for dinner or the evening banquet, or simply marvel at all the alumni in attendance. For more information, check out the Meetup in the Whova app or contact Eva Holmes at eva@blindhopes.com.

SOCIETY FAIR

The excitement is building! In less than a week, we will be back in Springfield with lots of old friends and lots of individuals looking to be classified as new friends. After spending a few hours back in the lecture rooms, plan on exiting down the escalator and staying for a while to visit our participating societies, family associations and our cemetery association. We will be right in front of you waiting to greet you. For any information, please email SocietyFair@nergc.org.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS SHOWCASE

We welcome the Rochester (NY) Genealogical Society and the Rhode Island Historical Society to the Showcase. Both will be exhibiting on Saturday.

The Rochester Genealogical Society began in 1938 when several people at a meeting of the Rochester Historical Society formed an informal group to preserve their family heritage. RGS became an independent organization in 1977. Since that time, it has experienced steady growth and currently has over 300 members, researching families in all regions of the world. Membership is comprised of people from all walks of life, who freely offer help or guidance to other members whenever asked. The Society has a Facebook page as well as a free website which provides access to 250,000 indexed names from local churches (rcip.info), and 300,000 pages of scanned records from local Rochester churches (https://www.nyrgs.org/church_cemetery_local_histo.php). It sponsors regular educational activities and encourages member-to-member support. Contact the Society at info@nyrgs.org or at <https://www.nyrgs.org/contact.php>.



Founded in 1822, the Rhode Island Historical Society is the fourth-oldest state historical society in the United States. The Society has the largest and most broadly significant historical collections in existence relating to Rhode Island. These collections include 25,000 museum objects, over 100,000 printed books, over 1,100 manuscript collections, and over 3,400 maps. The RIHS operates the Mary Elizabeth Robinson Research Center (RRC), two museums and two historic houses. The RRC houses the largest state-wide genealogical library dedicated to Rhode Island families. Additionally, the manuscript collections, which span from 1635-present are a treasure trove of genealogical data, and new digital projects are in the works! Paid research services are also available. This includes, but is not limited to, time spent searching our unique physical card catalogs, scanning material to create shareable files, and/or reviewing reels of the extensive microfilm collection of Rhode Island newspapers and vital records.

For more information, please email LAMShowcase@nergc.org.

QUERIES

A query board will be set up in the lobby area of the MassMutual center. Please feel free to [send your query in advance](#). They will be posted on the board and will be added to the NERGC website after the conference. You can also post directly to the board in the lobby any time during the conference.

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. Please remember to include your contact information within the body of the query.

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. Janet Johnson <address> or <email>.

For more information on how to write a query, please visit <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/query/>



EXHIBIT HALL UPDATE



Fifty booth spaces will be filled with numerous opportunities for attendees to browse for society memberships, research services and tools, books and other genealogy source materials. Exhibit Hall open hours are Thursday and Friday (May 4 and 5) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday (May 6) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with break down and pack up starting at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Exhibitors will include FamilySearch, Family Tree DNA, MyHeritage as well as those providing specialized information and guidance on Irish, Italian, Polish, French and French-Canadian roots (to name just a few). In addition, there will be booths offering focused attention to subjects such as Civil War records, Mayflower & Pilgrim Family Societies, genealogy related jewelry, writing and publishing, photography, storage and retrieval tools, and lots of fun stuff just for genealogists. Be sure to make time in your schedule to visit the Exhibit Hall as often as possible!

At least 75% of the exhibitors will be giving away such items as free memberships, free webinars, books, gift certificates, free subscriptions, research and digitization at the National Archives, DNA test kits and more. The list of those booths offering door prizes will appear in the Syllabus, and the most up-to-date list will be posted at the Conference and on *Whova*, the Conference app (which everyone should download to get the most out of the Conference and the Exhibit Hall opportunities).

A reminder to those exhibitors offering door prizes that we need a brief description of what prize or prizes they plan to offer so we can assemble my final door prize notice list to be posted at the Conference and on *Whova*. Contact ExhibitHall@nergc.org.

ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE FROM PAM ROBERTS

So, with less than a week left before we gather in Springfield, here is an update, bulleted since we are very busy communicating with those who asked for assistance for hearing, vision, or mobility needs during registration and many more who have responded to the invitation to ask questions that might facilitate participation more fully and comfortably given that hotel and venue are separate and not right next to each other.

PARKING

You guessed it. PARKING for those both with and without handicapped placards or plates is the BIG QUESTION. Many want to know what their options are without walking the distances shown on the map and chart at our NERGC.org website parking page, <https://nergc.org/parking-near-the-massmutual-center/>. I've been collecting all the unique situations brought to my attention and have been trying to keep up with sending emails in response, but I concluded a day ago that the information in this E-zine, coming out now, would not be as helpful as I hoped since not all information is available yet. So, I have started a list of those who will get the very latest and greatest accumulated information in an Accessibility special email (you'll all be BCC'd for security purposes) with everything I know by this Saturday. If there are still questions, I will be on site starting Tuesday and will try to track down the answers and be in touch.

If you have a question about accessible parking and have not yet emailed me about your circumstances, feel free to email accessibility@nergc.org. Include **NERGC parking and access to Venue** in subject heading. Here are some things you can tell me which will help:

- Are you commuting, and if so what is the license plate state of the car you will be driving and parking?
- Do you have a handicapped placard or license plate; if so from what state?
- Are you staying at a nearby hotel? Which one?

SCOOTERS

Individually, some have pre-decided to order scooters. I cannot promise we can get one, but I can get the information directly to the vendor and give you direct information on who to call to see if they can arrange it. FRIDAY is the last time they can try to do that for you. Scooters will be outdoor-worthy, and success stories

exist in using them on the streets since clear pathways and direct routes are available, with pedestrian accessible walk lights at intersections and safe no slip curb cuts. You'll get a chart with your hotel and the best route to walk or drive. There are many parking areas. In one area, we are told that sometimes a sign goes out in the morning for special event parking for \$20 a day. I am still trying to get confirmation on all that.

- You are ON THE LIST if you have already contacted accessibility@nergc.org.

Hot off a phone call. We can accept confirmations with paperwork and payment on scooters through Monday, May 1. They are not open on the weekend, and a call to me to refer you by Thursday will get you consideration. The delivery will be to the MassMutual Center on Tuesday, and I will orient you to the scooter when you pick it up there starting Wednesday morning or whenever you set up a pickup time with me. We currently have three scooters reserved. It is likely they have more in their inventory. If any wants to discuss renting one to get from a hotel to the venue and back, let me know.

VISION AND HEARING NEEDS

Do you have a request for any large print materials, reserved seating near screens or speakers, or digital access to handouts due to a disability? If you have already contacted us, we should already have been working on that for you. Pick up any equipment or specially prepared documents at the Accessibility Table near Registration. We have notified speakers that those with hearing aids may be needing to pull out tablets or hearing aids to use their apps for expanding volume controls.

Given that all registrants will receive their link to the downloadable syllabus this Saturday, try out the downloads with your screen readers and try out your accessibility settings. If you are having trouble accessing session information you really want to go to, tell me the session author, title and time it is being offered from the schedule in the syllabus, and I'll try to provide you with accessible documents. I have to KNOW by Sunday in order to use available pro-bono large print options and the help of a specialist in mal.

If you are concerned and have not heard from me by Friday, April 2 for everything except parking or accessible parking and costs CALL or text 860 428-2406, leave a message and I'll call you back or email me. Otherwise, we will SEE, or TALK with you as you roll or walk by, and check in at the Accessibility Table near registration and the accessible parking pull in spot at the venue.

FOLLOW NERGC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

E-zine

All issues of the E-zine are posted on the E-zine page, <https://nergc.org/e-zines>.

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.