

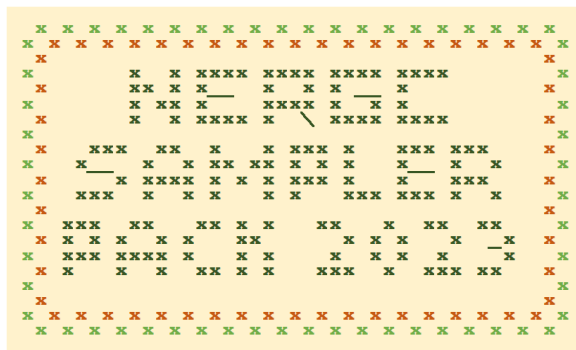
17th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



May 3–6, 2023
Springfield, Massachusetts

E-zine 11, July 10, 2023

The NERGC Sampler Pack 2023



If you missed us in Springfield for NERGC 2023 in May, we have an offer for you. We approached a number of our conference speakers and persuaded them to record their presentations, for the benefit of those who could not attend the conference.

In some ways these presentations are “better than live,” since you can view them on a larger screen, right in front of you, at home, in your comfortable chair, with the temperature set exactly as you want it. And you can rewind

and replay if something is not clear. You also don't need to find a parking spot, pass through security, or leave your iced mochaccino behind.

Of course, the downside is there is no interactive banter during the presentation, or Q&A at the end.

[The NERGC Sampler Pack 2023](#) includes the following:

- "The Real Life of New England Vital Records" – with Diane M. Boumenot
- "19th Century Whaling - A Family Affair" – with Sara E. Campbell
- "Roots in Granite: Finding Your New Hampshire Ancestors" – with Diane Florence Gravel
- "Following the Trail of Shared Matches" – with Seema Kenney
- "Creating Maine Towns: The Process and the Records" – with Carol Prescott McCoy
- "Strategies for Connecticut Research - Optimize Your Opportunities" – with Pauline C. Merrick
- "Writing for Family History Publications" – with Pauline C. Merrick
- "It's a Done Deed – Using Land Records" – with Edwin Strickland II
- "Breaking Through Brick Walls with Cluster Research" – with Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz
- "Genealogical Gold in New England Town Books and Reports" – with Robert Cameron Weir

Along with links to the online videos you will receive a PDF version of the handouts for these ten talks.

Purchasers may watch the videos as many times as they want, until September 30th, after which they will be deleted.

[The price for the ten presentations is \\$100.](#) Any profits remaining after our expenses for producing these videos will go toward our startup costs for NERGC 2025.

Questions regarding the NERGC Sampler Pack 2023 may be sent to nergc-help@nergc.org.

A WORD FROM THE CONFERENCE TRI-CHAIRS

The NERGC 2023 Tri-Chairs reported to the Board and Delegates on June 24, 2023, that the Seventeenth New England Regional Genealogical Conference, held at MassMutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, on May 3-6, 2023, continued a tradition of successful conferences. Dedication and hard work by volunteer leadership, committees, and conference volunteers ensured that the conference was planned and conducted with all-volunteer staff. Our ability to put on a conference of this size and quality at relatively low cost to participants depends on this dedication. This year's conference featured a stellar assortment of speakers, exhibitors, and consultants. The outstanding work of the Program Committee in assembling this talent is due for special praise. The MassMutual Center's staff was friendly and cooperative, guiding us through the inevitable last-minute questions and speedbumps which any conference faces.

The Tri-Chairs made several structural suggestions for consideration as the next conference is planned. There are always lessons to be learned. There is always new technology to master. We always welcome suggestions for improvements.

2023 Tri-Chairs

Judy Goss

John Leppman

Rob Weir

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

You've heard it many times... NERGC is an all-volunteer conference! With over 700 hours of onsite volunteer tasks from Wednesday through Saturday, 54 volunteers left the conference with prizes from our Volunteer Appreciation Raffle. There were 90 prizes available, and Kristi Marshall and Frances Nadeau were the big winners with five prizes each. Not everyone who earned raffle tickets participated, but 502 tickets were entered into the 90 prize buckets used over the three days.

The biggest winners overall were all the attendees who benefited from the generosity of the 135 onsite volunteers!

Thank you all for your time!

Seema Kenney

Volunteer Chair

PAT STANO-CARPENTER — VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



At the Saturday banquet, New England Regional Genealogical Consortium President Dave Robison presented Pat Stano-Carpenter with the 2023 Donna Holt Siemiakoski Genealogy Volunteer Award, in recognition of her long-time exemplary leadership, energy, and passion in support of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists and its mission. A strong supporter of NERGC, Pat has volunteered at every NERGC conference she has been able to attend. In 2013 she co-chaired Librarians' and Teachers' Day with Karen Trearchis. She has actively recruited volunteers to help in many areas needed by NERGC. Pat continued supporting NERGC by chairing the Volunteers committee for

NERGC 2017. In addition, she is an effective community ambassador and advocate for the field of genealogy and the joys of family history. Congratulations, Pat!

SOME FEEDBACK FROM OUR 2023 CONFERENCE

ADVANCE TICKET SALES IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES:

- 214 people signed up for the Wednesday pre-conference track or a Wednesday workshop
- 474 purchased three-day conference tickets
- 39 purchased one day Thursday tickets
- 50 purchased one day Friday tickets
- 36 purchased one day Saturday tickets

(It is not safe to add these numbers together, since there is a good deal of overlap in the sales. For example, all but 40 of the pre-conference attendees also bought a three-day conference ticket.)

Also registered were:

- 67 speakers
- 46 exhibitors

SOME STATISTICS FROM OUR FULL CONFERENCE SURVEY

184 responses to the Full Conference Survey were received, representing approximately 30% of attendees. The majority of respondents (72%) were 60-79 years of age, with 39% being 60-69 and 33% 70-79. The 50-59 age group followed with 16%, with under 50 and over 80 being much smaller groups. Seventy-six percent of respondents identified their gender as female and 23% as male. Nearly half of respondents (47%) consider themselves intermediate genealogists, with 27% considering themselves advanced and 18% professional. Seventy-four percent had previously attended a NERGC conference, while 26% had not.

The overall feedback on the conference was overwhelmingly positive: 91% felt that the conference was a good value for the cost, 93% indicated the conference provided information they needed, and 92% stated that they learned research techniques. Of the 177 respondents, 81% indicated that they were already planning to attend in 2025.

SELECTED COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES

LIKED BEST

- The quality of the speakers.
- The speakers were universally excellent and there was a great variety of interesting topics.
- There's no substitute for the energy of being with so many old and new friends.
- The opportunity to network,
- Hospitality Table—so friendly and knowledgeable about Springfield.
- I like how compact it was, wasn't too far between the rooms.
- The volunteers were helpful and pleasant.
- Networking opportunities.
- Free time between lectures to decompress.
- The Whova app was great.
- The vast knowledge and variety of the speakers. They all did a wonderful job.
- Liked half-hour time between sessions and long lunch times. Gave time to network, visit exhibits, and process info.
- Enthusiastic and dynamic speakers.
- Like the vendors. They were pleasant and ready to help.

LIKED LEAST

- The lack of some of the bigger names such as Ancestry in the Exhibit Hall was a little disappointing.
- Not enough for the 18th and 19th centuries.
- The parking situation.
- The boxed dinner was terrible and overpriced.
- Conference meals and concession very expensive and local options not great.
- Parking. Let me say that louder: PARKING.
- The lunch break was much too long, especially for those who did not attend the very expensive luncheons.
- Too much down time between sessions.
- It was disappointing that the escalator was broken and not fixed, making travel time between classes much longer.
- The venue was a bit far from the hotel. The conference center had no up escalator so waited for an elevator. The boxed dinners were terrible.
- Walking so far.
- Parking options.

QUERIES!

With the permission of the original submitters volunteers from NHSOG have transcribed and uploaded a consolidated list of queries posted on the Query Board at NERGC 2023. The 5 pages of queries can be downloaded, in PDF format, [from the NERGC website](#). Queries from 2021 and 2017 are also available there. Please follow up directly with the submitters per the contact info given.

THE NERGC.ORG WEBSITE AND WHOVA APP

Over the next few months, we will be transitioning the website to forward-looking information about NERGC 2025. But until that happens you can find archived a number of pages with useful NERGC 2023 information, including:

- A [list of Exhibitors](#) and links to their websites.
- A list of participants in [Society Fair](#) and the [Libraries, Archives, and Museums Showcase](#).
- (Coming soon) [a transcript of queries](#) posted to the conference Query Board.

Note also that attendee access to the conference app, Whova, ends on August 6th. If you have any contacts, community forum posts, or similar that you want to save, please observe that deadline.

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>.

FACEBOOK and CONFERENCE BLOG

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NERGC> and blog at <https://nergc.org/blog/> to stay up to date for plans for the 2025 conference.