



19th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



April 14th – 17th, 2027
Portland, Maine

E-zine 2

February 2026

As we move into February, preparations for **NERGC 2027** continue to take shape, and our excitement for gathering in Portland next April keeps growing. The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium looks forward to welcoming you to our nineteenth conference, where family historians from across the region will come together to learn, share, and reconnect.

Our Conference Committee is hard at work refining program tracks, special Wednesday offerings, and the many familiar features you've come to expect—Exhibit Hall, Ancestors Research Consultants, Society Fair, and more. While there are no major updates to announce this month, the foundation for a rich and engaging conference experience is well underway.

Registration is not yet open, but it's never too early to start planning your trip to the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, ME, April 14–17, 2027. Keep following our E-zines for ongoing updates as we build toward another memorable NERGC gathering.

OUR 2027 CONFERENCE THEME

The 2027 Conference theme, “*Genealogy in the Age of AI: Innovation Meets Responsibility*,” reflects the changes happening in our field. AI will be part of the conversation, but it's only one piece of the program. NERGC will continue to offer the wide range of topics our community relies on — from local history and research planning to lineage societies, military records, and more.



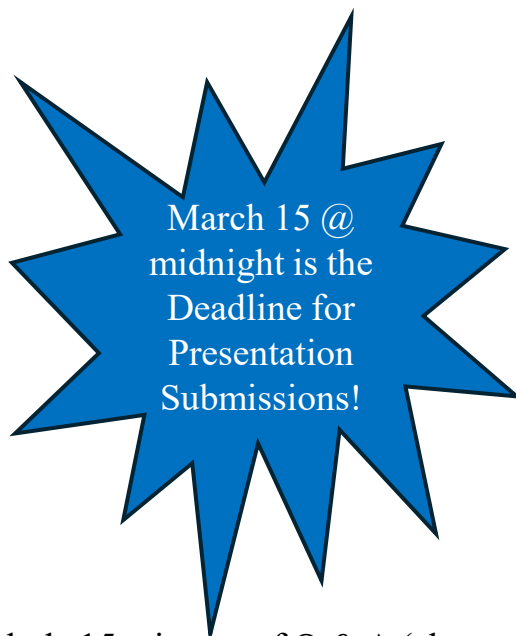
THE CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS FOR NERGC 2027 IS OPEN!

Presentation proposals are welcome from now until midnight March 15, 2026, eastern standard time for the 19th New England Regional Genealogy Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME April 14th – 17th 2027. We are looking for:

- 60-minute conference sessions that include 15 minutes of Q & A (about 35 sessions, predominantly on Saturday)
- 75-minute conference sessions that include 15 minutes of Q & A (about 40 sessions)
- Mealtime presentations of 45 minutes.
- Two-hour workshops, a session in which all participants get the opportunity to utilize tools, website, or techniques under the tutelage of the presenter with hands on activities in one of these formats.
 - Guided Research.
 - Flipped Classroom.
 - I do, We do, You do.

Workshops are offered all four days of the conference, and we are seeking them for all levels of genealogical researchers.

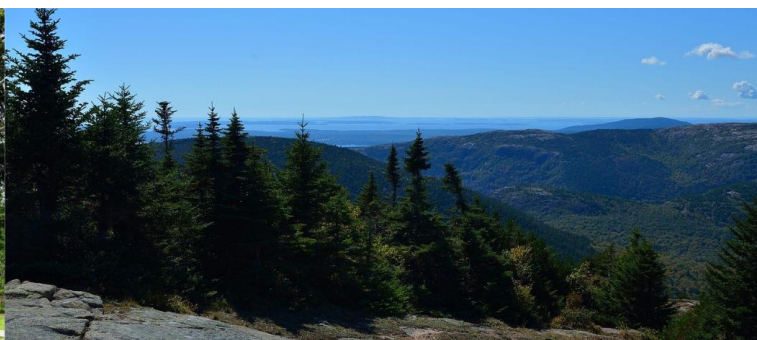
All in keeping with our theme: ***Genealogy in the Age of AI: Innovation Meets Responsibility***. You must submit your proposals through the NERGC program portal: <https://forms.gle/3ZE1ztCapD6EVyxw6>. For full details please visit our website at: <https://nergc.org/call-for-presentations-2027/>.



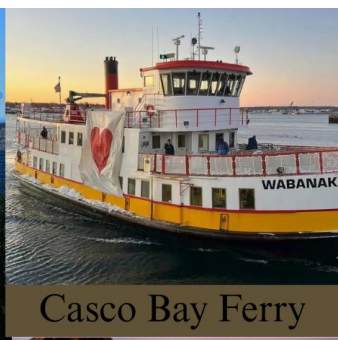
PORTLAND, ME ATTRACTIONS



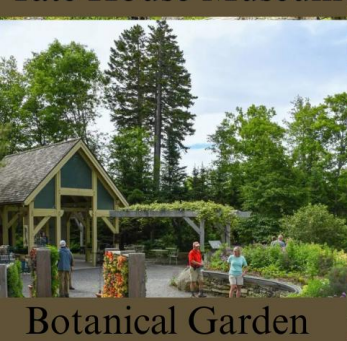
Tate House Museum



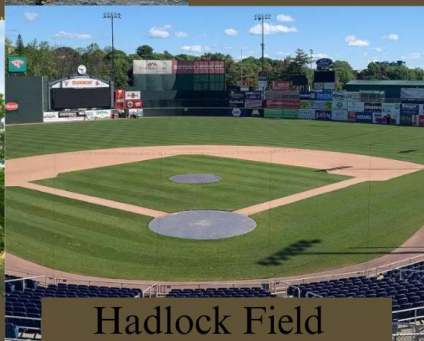
Acadia Maine



Casco Bay Ferry



Botanical Garden



Hadlock Field



Victoria Museum

MEET OUR NERGC 2027 FEATURED SPEAKERS



Blaine Bettinger

Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D., is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence. In 2007 he started *The Genetic Genealogist* (www.thegeneticgenealogist.com), one of the earliest blogs on the topic. Blaine is the author of *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, and co-author with Debbie Parker Wayne of the award-winning *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, the world's first genetic genealogy workbook. He also co-authored "Genetics for Genealogy" with Judy Russell in 2018's *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards (ProGen PPS)* (Elizabeth Shown Mills, Author and Editor).

Blaine is or has been an instructor for genetic genealogy courses at the [Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research \(IGHR\)](#), [Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy \(SLIG\)](#), [Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh \(GRIP\)](#), and [Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research](#). Blaine is a graduate of ProGen Study Group 21, a trustee for the [New York Genealogical and Biographical Society](#), and a member of the [DNAngels](#) Board of Directors since 2022 (President since January 2023). He is also the founder in 2017 of Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques, a very active Facebook group with approximately 90,000 members.



Mark Thompson

Mark's career journey includes higher education, high tech, and the corporate IT world. These experiences developed and honed his technical, analytical, and communication skills.

His career path set the perfect stage for helping others make their best family history, particularly in today's increasingly high-tech genealogy world.

Mark is passionate about staying up to date on the rapidly changing world of genealogy and using these changes to help his clients uncover, understand, and connect with their family mysteries.

Mark is equally dedicated to helping family history enthusiasts stay up to date on the best of these changes and show them how to use them in their own history-making efforts.

When he's not helping others, Mark can be found looking at the world through a camera lens, capturing moments that words alone can't.

Occasionally, he finds time to work on his own family history.

MEET OUR NERGC 2027 CONFERENCE CHAIRS



Diane Laferriere has been a board member of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. since 2015. She has been doing genealogy research for her family and others since the early 1980's. Her paternal grandparents immigrated from Sweden to Boston in the early 1900s and on her maternal side she descends from Irish immigrants who arrived in the 1850s. She has traced her husband's French-Canadian Ancestors back to several Filles du Roy (aka Daughters of the King) and Martin Prévost

and Marie Olivier Sylvestre Manitousabeouich. Their marriage was the first known union between a European man and an Indigenous woman to take place before the Catholic Church in Canada in 1644.

Jonathan W. Stevens is a professional genealogist, President of the Genealogical Society of Vermont, a Director of NERGC and has edited the NERGC Newsletter for the past three conferences. He has published several genealogical articles, including



transcriptions of early vital records of Andover, Chester, Londonderry and Peru, Vt. He is also the Assistant Town Clerk, Lister/Assessor (Vermont Property Assessor I), Clerk/Secretary of the Zoning Board of Adjustment / Planning Commission of Andover, Vt. and consultant for the Windham Center Cemetery Commission in Windham, Vt. In his spare time, he is a musician and plays the guitar.



Jo Zurwell joined the American-Canadian Genealogical Society (ACGS) in 2016 and has served in several leadership roles, becoming President in 2022 and now beginning her third term. She also chairs the Website Committee, and on the Editorial Board and serves on the Outreach Committee and supports a variety of society projects. Jo joined the NERGC Board in 2024

as Recording Secretary and volunteers as Webmaster for the Consortium's website. Her interest in genealogy began when she created a family tree as a gift for a friend, a project that sparked her passion for helping others discover their family histories and eventually led her to start her own research business.