



# 19<sup>th</sup> New England Regional Genealogical Conference



April 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2027  
Portland, Maine

E-zine 3

March 2026

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As we move through March, the planning for NERGC 2027 continues to build momentum, and our anticipation for gathering in Portland, ME, next April, grows stronger each week. The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium looks forward to welcoming you to our nineteenth conference, where genealogists and family historians from across New England and the country will come together to learn, collaborate, and reconnect.

Behind the scenes, our Conference Committee is steadily shaping program tracks, Wednesday offerings, and the many signature features that make NERGC special—Exhibit Hall, Ancestors Research Consultants, Society Fair, and more. Each month brings us closer to a full program, and the pieces are coming together beautifully.

This issue includes an update on hotel reservations, an important milestone as you begin planning your trip to the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, ME, April 14–17, 2027. Be sure to check the hotel section for details on when booking will open.

Registration for the conference itself is not yet underway but now is a great time to start mapping out your plans. Continue following our monthly E-zines as we share new developments and build toward an engaging and memorable NERGC 2027.

## 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.



## Holiday In By The Bay, Portland, ME - April 14-17, 2027



### Hotel Reservations Will Open June 1, 2026

As you begin thinking ahead to your stay in Portland, we're working closely with the Holiday Inn by the Bay to make sure our room block is available for those joining us at NERGC 2027. To help us manage this, the hotel will provide us with a list of reservations on **December 10, 2026**, which we'll compare with our conference registration list.

If someone has reserved a room but hasn't yet registered for the conference, we'll send a friendly reminder encouraging them to complete their registration. This simple step helps ensure that our limited block of rooms remains available for attendees and that everyone who wants to stay on site has the best opportunity to do so.



# Speaker SPOTLIGHT

## Opening Session Keynote Speaker Justice Dennis J. Curran (Ret.)



Justice Dennis J. Curran served for 15 years on the Massachusetts Superior Court, presiding over more than 450 civil and criminal trials. A graduate of Boston Latin School, he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees through an accelerated joint-degree program at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a law degree from the University of Virginia.

During his judicial career, Justice Curran received four statewide awards for judicial excellence and mentored more than 100 judicial interns—many of whom remain in contact with him today. He has served as a Professor of the Practice at Tufts University and teaches in Brown University's summer program. He now works as an arbitrator and is also a sought-after enrichment lecturer for luxury cruise lines around the world.

Justice Dennis J. Curran will open NERGC 2027 with a keynote that resonates deeply with this year's theme, "*Genealogy in the Age of AI: Innovation Meets Responsibility*." His presentation, "*Lincoln: Life, Law, and Leadership*," invites us to reflect on the qualities of integrity, judgment, and ethical responsibility—principles that guide both great leaders and thoughtful genealogists navigating new technologies.

### ***Lincoln: Life, Law, and Leadership***

In a sharply polarized era, Abraham Lincoln's integrity and moral clarity offer a powerful model of leadership. As we mark the 161st anniversary of his assassination, this session explores how Lincoln mastered communication and compromise, envisioned bold goals, and pursued them with a balance of responsibility, determination, compassion, and hope.

Justice Curran examines the qualities that allowed Lincoln to summon his "better angels" during moments of profound national crisis—and how his example continues to inspire generations long after his voice has faded into history.

## **NERGC 2027 Committee Leadership In Place**

Planning for NERGC 2027 is now fully underway. All committee chairs have been assigned, with each participating society stepping forward to lead a key area of conference preparation. Our first Delegate meeting was held on March 14, 2026, marking the official start of the planning cycle. With the team in place and the work beginning in earnest, we are excited to move ahead at full speed toward a great conference in Portland, ME.

### **WANT TO RECEIVE THE E-ZINE?**

The Conference E-zine, a digital newsletter which provides information and updates about the New England Regional Genealogy Conference, is sent periodically to all those on our E-zine email list. If you're not already receiving it and would like to do so, fill out the form <https://nergc.org/e-zine-sign-up-form/>

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