



19th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



April 14th – 17th, 2027
Portland, Maine

E-zine 4

April 2026

As we reach the one-year mark before NERGC 2027, the excitement is truly beginning to build. April 2027 may still feel a little way off, but the energy behind the scenes is unmistakable. Our committee chairs have stepped into their roles with enthusiasm, creativity, and a shared commitment to making our nineteenth conference—held this cycle in Portland, ME—an exceptional experience for genealogists and family historians from across New England and beyond.

Planning continues to move steadily forward as program themes, Wednesday offerings, and NERGC's signature features take shape—the Exhibit Hall, Ancestors Research Consultants, Society Fair, and more. With each passing month, the framework of the full conference becomes clearer, and the pieces are aligning for a memorable gathering next April.

As we look ahead to next April, it's also a good time to revisit the details for hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. We first shared this information in E-zine 3, and you'll find it included again in this issue to help you begin shaping your travel plans for April 14–17, 2027.

While registration for the conference itself is not yet open, now is the perfect time to start envisioning your NERGC 2027 experience. Continue following our monthly E-zines as we share new developments and build toward an engaging, inspiring, and truly unforgettable conference.



Speaker SPOTLIGHT

Each conference cycle, NERGC is proud to highlight the outstanding speakers sponsored by our participating member societies. These presenters bring a wide range of expertise, fresh perspectives, and community-driven energy to the program.

In this issue, you'll find the first half of our sponsored-speaker lineup, including each speaker's name and the title of their upcoming session. These talks reflect the depth and diversity of genealogical learning across New England, and we're delighted to showcase the contributions of our member organizations.

The second half of the sponsored-speaker list will appear in the May issue of the E-Zine, completing the full roster of society-sponsored presenters for NERGC 2027.

| Sponsoring Society | Speaker | Title |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| ACGS | Patrick Lacroix | <i>Crossroads of Acadian and French-Canadian Maine</i> |
| AFGS | David Vermette | <i>Using Research to Verify a Family Story: A French-Canadian Case Study</i> |
| CCGS | Jeff Schiebe | <i>Planning and Achieving a Successful Ancestral Home Visit</i> |
| CSG | Jennifer Zinck, CG®, AG®, AGL™ | <i>Finding and Using Connecticut Vital Records</i> |
| FSGSC | Craig Harman | <i>FamilySearch Tips and Tricks</i> |
| Godfrey | Laura C. Hobbs | <i>In Sickness and in Health</i> |
| GSV | Scott Andrew Bartley | <i>Using FamilySearch AI Effectively</i> |
| TIARA | Susan M. O'Connor | <i>From Artifacts to Irish Ancestors: Stories Revealed</i> |
| JGSGB | Riva Krut | <i>Portland's Jewish History: Marrying Genealogy and Social History</i> |
| MGS | Judith C. Granger | <i>Finding Pomp Russell, enslaved at birth, 1761</i> |

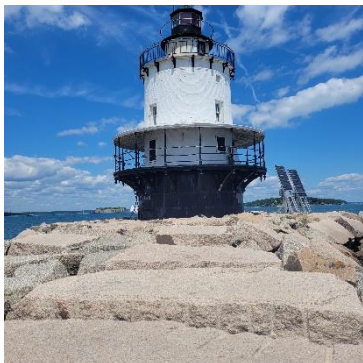
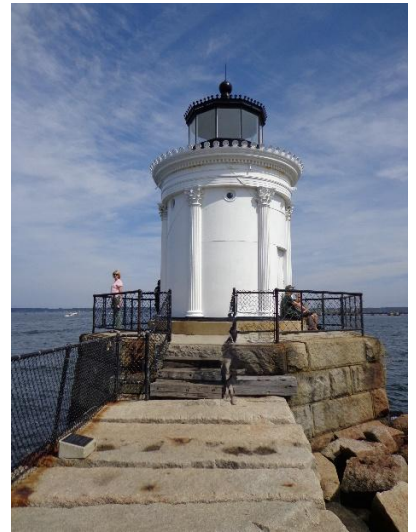
FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

While NERGC 2027 is a year away, it's never too soon to start thinking of all the things you'd like to see and do during your visit to Portland. Let's begin with local lighthouses:



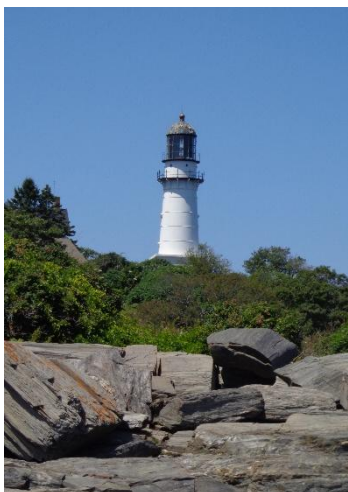
The iconic Portland Head Light lighthouse in Cape Elizabeth, ME, is less than 5 miles from Holiday Inn by the Bay. Construction began in 1787 and was completed during the presidency of George Washington. The lighthouse first operated on January 10, 1791. While it has undergone many changes over the years it remains one of the most photographed lighthouses in the world today.

Portland Breakwater Light, better known as Bug Light, is in South Portland. Operation began in 1855 to mark the end of the breakwater protecting Portland Harbor. The lighthouse started out as a wooden structure, but due to deterioration, a new lighthouse on a granite foundation was built. There is no lightkeeper's house, so in the early days they had to walk to work, braving waves, wind, and weather.



Spring Point Ledge, located in South Portland, was built in 1897 warning mariners of the ledge that protruded into the main shipping channel of Portland Harbor. Initially, the only way to access the lighthouse was by boat, but in 1951 construction of a 50,000-ton granite breakwater was constructed to connect the lighthouse with the shore. The breakwater is walkable and makes for some stunning views!

Ram Island Ledge Light was built in 1905 and fully automated in 1959. This lighthouse is not accessible by land, but you can see it clearly during your visit to Portland Head Light (weather permitting).



Cape Elizabeth Light, or Two Lights as it's called, was in operation by October 1828. Two separate lighthouses about 300 yards apart were built to warn mariners of the approaching Portland Harbor. By 1872 decay had taken its toll and both were rebuilt out of cast-iron. By 1924 all twin light houses were changed to single lights, and the west light was darkened for good. Your visit here will also include incredible views of the ocean and some scrumptious food at The Lobster Shack!

Holiday Inn 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.



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.

WANT TO RECEIVE THE E-ZINE?

The Conference E-zine, a digital newsletter which provides information and updates about the New England Regional Genealogical 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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