



19th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



April 14th – 17th, 2027
Portland, Maine

E-Zine 5

May 2026

As spring settles in and we move deeper into May, the excitement around NERGC 2027 continues to grow. Each week brings new progress, new conversations, and new reasons to look forward to gathering together next April in Portland, Maine. Our nineteenth conference is taking shape in all the best ways, and the energy behind the scenes is unmistakable.

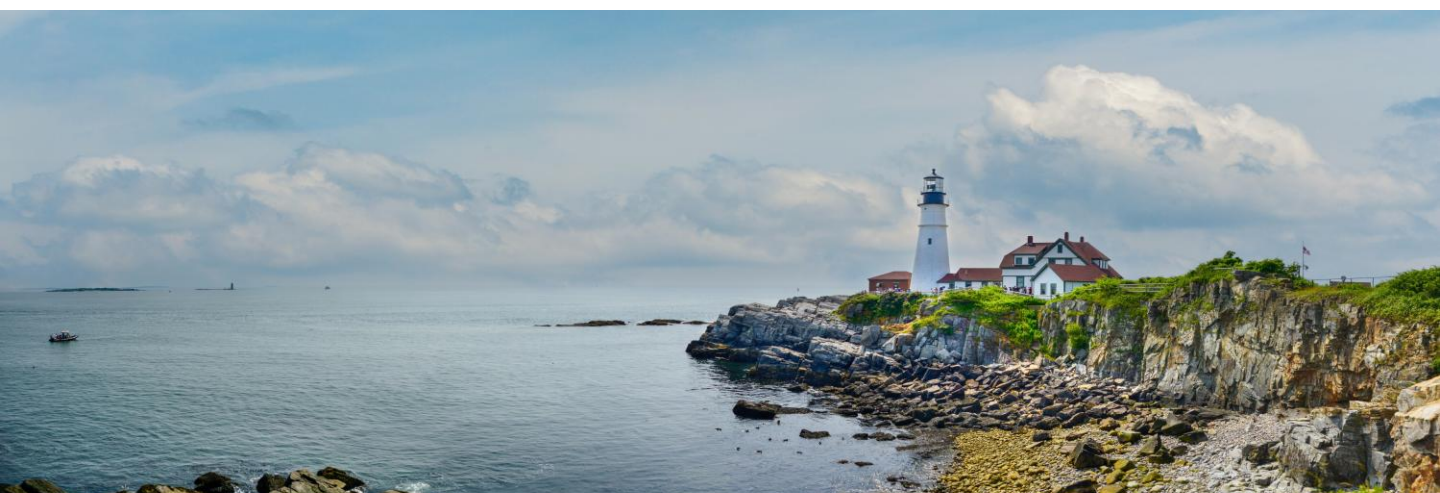
This month's issue marks an important milestone: hotel reservations are officially open. Whether you're a longtime attendee or planning your first NERGC experience, securing your stay at the Holiday Inn By The Bay is the perfect first step toward joining us next April. You'll find all the details inside.

We're also thrilled to share the second half of our society sponsored speakers, completing the full roster of presenters supported by our member organizations. Their expertise and generosity help define the spirit of NERGC, and their upcoming sessions offer a glimpse of the rich, diverse program we're building for 2027.

In addition, this issue debuts our refreshed Sponsorship Opportunities section. Whether you represent a society, business, or organization, sponsoring NERGC is a meaningful way to support the genealogical community while gaining visibility before, during, and after the conference. With five-tiered levels, from Lighthouse to Clams, there are options for every budget and outreach goal.

And because no trip to Portland is complete without a little indulgence, our Hospitality Committee has highlighted some of the city's best chocolate and candy destinations. From handcrafted truffles to nostalgic favorites, these local spots offer a sweet way to unwind after a full day of learning and connection.

Thank you for joining us on this journey toward NERGC 2027. With each E-zine, we get one step closer to an inspiring, collaborative, and memorable conference. Enjoy this issue and stay tuned. There's much more ahead.



Speaker SPOTLIGHT

In last month's issue, we introduced the first half of the speakers sponsored by NERGC's participating member societies—presenters whose expertise, creativity, and community spirit enrich the conference program year after year.

This issue completes the roster. Below, you'll find the second half of our society-sponsored speakers, along with the titles of their upcoming sessions. Together, these presentations showcase the full breadth of genealogical learning represented across New England and highlight the vital role our member organizations play in shaping NERGC 2027.

With the full lineup now revealed, we look forward to sharing more program updates as we continue building toward an engaging and inspiring conference in Portland next April.

Sponsoring Society	Speaker	Title
CAS	Janeen Bjork	<i>Family Finding Best Practices: DNA's Power in Adoption</i>
CMGS	Bill Duke	<i>NotebookLM</i>
MGC	Michael Brophy	<i>Pilgrims, Puritans and Irishmen in Cyberspace: Massachusetts Genealogy</i>
MSMD	TBD	<i>TBD</i>
MSOG	Seema Kenney	<i>Your Tree Begins Here: Learning Ancestry.com for Family History Research</i>
NEAPG	Jennifer Zinck, CG®, AG®, AGL™	<i>Practical AI: Time-Saving Solutions for Genealogists</i>
NEHGS	TBD	<i>Irish in the American Revolution</i>
NHSOG	Sam Collins	<i>Old Shoalers: Resources for the Isles of Shoals</i>
SSGS	Seema Kenney	<i>Exploring Non-Population & special U.S. Census Schedules</i>

FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Chocolate lovers are in for a treat. Portland and the surrounding area offer several great spots to satisfy your sweet tooth.



Chocolats Passion is our first stop and it's the closest. They are located at 175 Spring Street, Suite D. As you come out of the main entrance of the Holiday Inn By The Bay and face Spring Street, turn left and walk 0.3 miles (about 7 minutes).

They have a wide assortment including bars, cremes, caramels, and boxes. Those of you who are vegan will appreciate their selection of bars, cremes and fruit-based items.

Check them out before you come at <https://chocolatspassion.com/>.

Old Port Candy Co. is a ten-minute walk east of the hotel at 422 Fore Street in the Old Port.

They carry fudge, chocolate bark, caramels, and turtles along with nostalgic favorites like Charleston Chew, Chuckles, and Smarties.

If you have a nut allergy, they offer several nut-free options, including a Reese's-style cup made with sunflower butter. Their website is <https://www.oldportcandy.com/>.

Dean's Sweets has two locations in Portland. One is at 475 Fore Street and the other at 54 Cove Street. Both locations are a short drive or a longer walk from the hotel. Co-owners Kristin and Dean Bingham pride themselves on using as many local ingredients as possible.

You'll find over 30 varieties of truffles, caramels, and buttercreams along with seasonal products. According to their website, they don't use any nuts or nut products, and all the chocolates are gluten-free. They also have dairy-free and vegan chocolates as well. Take a look at <https://deanssweets.com/>.

FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

While these are all great options close to the NERGC venue, one spot is worth the drive... **Len Libby Candies**, located on Route 1 in Scarborough, Maine.

Len Libby has a vast assortment of chocolates, nuts, taffy, and confections. They include items made with real Maine maple syrup and Maine blueberries.

In addition to the chocolate, there's a bonus you won't want to miss—Lenny the Moose:



Lenny is made of 1,700 pounds of milk chocolate. He was carved on-site over the span of four weeks and made his first appearance back in 1997.

To see more of what Len Libby has to offer, go to their website at <https://www.lenlibby.com/>.

After a full day of sessions and research, take a little time to enjoy something sweet. These local spots are an easy and delicious way to experience a bit of Portland.



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



Hotel Reservations Are Now Open

[Click Here to Reserve Online](#)

NERGC is excited to be back in Portland, ME, after 22 years! NERGC 2027 will be at the Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME.

NERGC 2027 has arranged for a block of rooms, spanning Tuesday, April 13 through Sunday, April 18, the conference rate is available for three days before and after the conference as well. Rooms include complimentary wireless internet.

We have a selection of different size rooms depending on your needs with the designated costs below.

- 2 Queen = \$159/night
- Standard King = \$159/night
- Executive King = \$184/night
- Presidential Suite (2 BR) = \$395/night

The above pricing is before taxes, currently Maine State Lodging Tax is 9%, and Local Assessment is currently at 1.5%.

Hotel Check-In is 3 p.m. Hotel Check-Out is 11 a.m. Room availability cannot be guaranteed for early check-in, but they do have luggage storage available.

Discounted Parking for Hotel Guests will be \$15 per vehicle per night, this will be added to your hotel bill, you will have unlimited in and out privileges. Day Guests who park in the external garage next to the hotel will be \$10 (CASH ONLY, no Credit Card) per vehicle, per day with one in and out.

The hotel reservation deadline is March 13, 2027. We will explore options at other hotels as our block of rooms fills up.

If you have any questions, email us at 2027-trichairs@nergc.org.

Please visit our [hotel webpage](#) for full details.

Sponsorship OPPORTUNITIES

Support the work of the **New England Regional Genealogical Consortium** and gain visibility with researchers, societies, libraries, and decision-makers across the region. Our 2027 sponsorship levels offer meaningful benefits designed to highlight your organization before, during, and after the conference.

Sponsorship Levels

\$1,000.00+ Lighthouse

- Sponsor to receive a Full-Page Ad in the conference syllabus.
- Complimentary Full Conference Registration for a single person.
- Sponsor entitled to a Complimentary Exhibit Hall booth (8×10).
- Sponsor will be listed as a sponsor on the NERGC website and the conference E-Zines.
- Logo will be prominently displayed on the NERGC website and the conference E-Zines.
- Sponsor entitled to place one insert in conference tote bags that will be distributed to each attendee.



\$750.00 Lobster

- Sponsor to receive a Full-Page Ad in the conference syllabus.
- Sponsor entitled to a Complimentary Exhibit Hall booth (8×10).
- Sponsor will be listed as a sponsor on the NERGC website and the conference E-Zines.
- Sponsor entitled to place one insert in conference tote bags that will be distributed to each attendee.



\$500.00 Scallops

- Sponsor to receive a Half-Page Ad in the conference syllabus.
- Sponsor will be listed as a sponsor on the NERGC website and in the conference E-Zines.
- Sponsor entitled to place one insert in conference tote bags that will be distributed to each attendee.



\$250.00 Oysters

- Sponsor to receive a Quarter-Page Ad in the conference syllabus
- Sponsor will be listed as a sponsor on the NERGC website and in the conference E-Zines.
- Sponsor entitled to place one insert in conference tote bags that will be distributed to each attendee.



\$100.00 Clams

- Sponsor will be listed as a sponsor on the NERGC website and in the conference E-Zines.
- Sponsor entitled to place one insert in conference tote bags that will be distributed to each attendee.



For full details to become a Sponsor go to <https://nergc.org/sponsorships-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.

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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