



19th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



April 14th – 17th, 2027
Portland, Maine

E-Zine 9

September 2026

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

As we close out September, the moment so many have been waiting for has finally arrived—registration for NERGC 2027 is officially opening! After months of planning, refining, and building toward April, this is the milestone that makes the conference feel real. Whether you’ve attended NERGC for years or you’re joining us for the first time, we’re thrilled to welcome you into the next chapter of our journey together.

This issue is packed with everything you need to get ready: details on our new registration platform, early-bird options, workshops, streaming sessions, special events, panel discussion, hotel updates, and more. Take your time exploring each section so you can make the most of all the opportunities available—some familiar favorites, and some exciting new additions for 2027.

NERGC 2027 promises to be a vibrant, engaging, and forward-looking conference where innovation meets responsibility and our shared passion for genealogy continues to grow. We can’t wait to see your plans take shape as you register and prepare for an unforgettable week in Portland next April.

Enjoy this issue—and welcome to the start of the NERGC 2027 experience.



REGISTRATION

NERGC 2027 Early Bird Registration

Registration for NERGC 2027 opens on Sunday, September 27, 2026. Before you begin, please download and review the Conference Brochure.

What's New

If you've attended NERGC before, you'll recognize many of your favorite activities, but look closely, as we've added a few new offerings for 2027. We're also trying a new registration platform, Zeffy, in place of Whova. Take your time as you register to be sure you've signed up for everything you want.

Zeffy is free for nonprofits like NERGC, but it funds itself by asking purchasers for a donation at checkout. Please double-check your total before you complete your purchase to confirm you agree with every amount. NERGC is unable to refund donations made to Zeffy.

Syllabus Options

The syllabus is still available as a printed book for \$50, to be picked up when you get your name tag in Maine. New this conference, you can instead choose Print-on-Demand through Lulu.com for a discounted price of \$30 and have it delivered directly to you before the conference. There's no need to create a Lulu account. Once the syllabus is ready for printing, registered attendees will receive an email with an ordering link. As in the past you may download the syllabus digitally for free.

Wednesday Buffets

In addition to our regular luncheons and banquets Thursday through Saturday with speakers, we're offering a Buffet meal at lunch and dinner times on Wednesday. These are a chance to relax, catch up with genealogy friends, and meet new ones. No presentations are planned for these meals.

Panel Discussion

Be sure to arrive early enough on Wednesday to check in at registration and still have time to attend the 5pm Panel discussion with our Featured Speakers; Blaine Bettinger and Marc Thompson. Seating is limited so don't wait to purchase your ticket for this one-time event.

Streaming Sessions for Remote Attendees

Can't join us in Maine? We've partnered with select speakers to live stream their sessions to remote attendees while they're presented in person over the three days of the conference. These pre-selected sessions will not be recorded. You may purchase all 11 streaming sessions or just a single day. The full list of streaming sessions appears on page 14 of the Brochure.

We look forward to seeing you, in person or online!

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



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. However, these rooms are 95%+ filled.

An **additional block of rooms** covering Tuesday, April 13 through Sunday, April 18, has been secured by NERGC at a nearby hotel.

Westin Portland Harborview (Marriott)
157 High Street
Portland, ME



Room rate \$189 per night before taxes.

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 4 p.m. and Check-out is 11 a.m. Room availability cannot be guaranteed for early check-in, but they do have luggage storage available.

Parking: (Parking fees subject to change)

Self-Parking at adjacent Gateway Garage at 181 High St. is \$38 per day

Valet Parking is \$43 per day

They offer a complimentary shuttle, within 3-mile radius of hotel, based on availability. It is a 5-minute walk to the Holiday Inn by the Bay to attend the Conference.

[Click Here for the Website to register](#)

Or Call 207-775-5411 The reservation deadline is March 13, 2027.

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

HOSPITALITY

Enjoying Portland Without Spending a Fortune

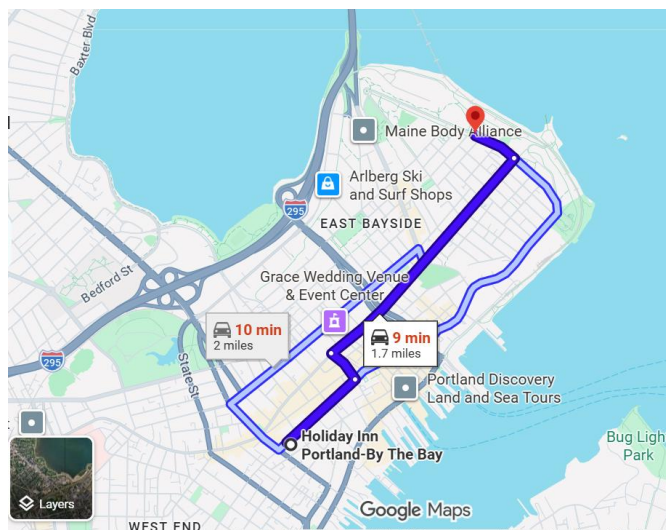
Having NERGC in Portland in the month of April has its perks and drawbacks. It's not the warmest month, but there aren't as many tourists, so it's easier to get around.

While not everything will be open, there are plenty of fun things you (or your non-conference attending spouse) can do that won't break the bank.

Here are some top places to see:

Eastern Promenade

The Eastern Promenade is a short drive (or 2-mile walk) from the hotel, but well worth it for the view.



It is 78 acres of stunning views of Casco Bay. There is a park open 5 AM to 10PM and you can make use of the Eastern Prom Multi-Use Trail. At the intersection of the Eastern Prom and Congress Street is the Cleaves Memorial, honoring the founders of Portland. It was donated to the city in 1883.

Old Port & Working Waterfront

Walk or drive down to the water from the hotel and just wander. Plenty of shops and restaurants are open year-round and will be happy to have you visit them.

A few spots worth seeing are the United States Custom House, built in the early 1870s after the Great Fire of 1866. It's located at 312 Fore Street. Harbor Fish Market is found on Custom House Wharf. Stop in to see what an original fish market looks like. In fact, all of the wharfs are a sight to see, including Long Wharf which has pieces of the Berlin Wall on display.

HOSPITALITY

Peaks Island Ferry

The Peaks Island Ferry is part of Casco Bay Lines and runs all year. It's a fun excursion even if the island isn't hopping with activity in April. The ferry ride itself is worth the ticket. You'll find the schedule at <https://www.cascobaylines.com/schedules/peaks-island-schedule/>. The ferry terminal is on the water at the end of Franklin Street.

Portland Museum of Art

Located at 7 Congress Square, the museum has something for everyone. While you'll want to check their website for the April showings at www.portlandmuseum.org, you're sure to find something you like. In the past they have offered free admission for those under 21 years of age and free admission to all on Fridays from 4-8 pm.

Eastern Cemetery

Eastern Cemetery is Portland's oldest "historic landscape" dating back to 1668 and contains more than 4000 marked graves. You'll find it in Munjoy Hill on Congress Street (north) and Federal Street (south). Some of the most beautiful stones in the cemetery were carved by Bartlett Adams, who operated the first stone-cutting shop in Portland. Over 700 examples of his work can be found throughout the cemetery. Check the Spirits Alive website (<https://www.spiritsalive.org/events/index.htm>) closer to your visit to Portland to see if tours are available or when they are open to wander at will.

No matter if you choose one of these activities or plan your own, you're guaranteed a wonderful time during your stay in Portland.

ANCESTORS RESEARCH CONSULTATION

Are you seeking expert guidance for your family history research? We're offering exclusive 20-minute consultations with professional genealogists who can help reinvigorate your research journey. Whether you're just beginning and need direction, struggling to decipher historical documents, or facing a challenging research roadblock, our experts can provide fresh perspectives and strategic advice. These valuable one-on-one sessions are available to registered conference attendees, with a limit of one consultation per person. Keep an eye on www.NERGC.org for forthcoming details about specialist expertise areas and consultation hours. Appointment scheduling will be available online prior to the conference; instructions will be sent to registered attendees.

SPECIAL EVENTS WEDNESDAY APRIL 14, 2027

Portland Hidden Histories Walking Tour

10 am to noon approximately 1.5 miles

\$45 per person Maximum of 20



Both a fantastic historical overview of Portland, and an exploration into previously hidden stories, award-winning tour guide Dugan Murphy will delve into intriguing — and too often untold — stories of people from all backgrounds and identities. Get ready for an inclusive, empowering, and surprising constellation of tales shared by a trusted public historian on a walk-through downtown, the Old Port, and working waterfront.

Tour of the Wadsworth-Longfellow House

1:30 pm one-hour private tour

Maine Historical Society

489 Congress Street Portland

\$10 per person Maximum 12 people



Within its walls lived four generations of one remarkable family that made significant contributions to the political, literary, and cultural life of New England and the United States. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), grew up in the house and went on to become one of the most famous men of his time. Virtually all of the household items and artifacts are original to the Wadsworth and Longfellow families.

Open House at the Maine Irish Heritage Center

34 Gray Street Portland

From 10 am – 2 pm

About a 10-minute walk from the conference hotel



Explore their historic building on a guided tour, browse their genealogy resources and library, and take a peek at their digital research station. Meet with their team of experienced genealogists to ask questions about the work they do here at the Center and learn how to schedule a future research appointment to continue your journey. Free Entry!

This is not a NERGC organized event, arrange your trip to the open house that best fits your schedule.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

NERGC's events are built on volunteer hours, and we will need plenty of volunteers for this conference. Whether you're attending the conference or you live in the area, we can always use help! Volunteers are needed to host and monitor on-site sessions; we also need people with experience running zoom meetings for the streaming sessions, to work at the registration area; to provide rides to/from the airport; to help exhibitors move in/out; to help with miscellaneous administrative tasks, to provide mobility, hearing, visual and cognitive communication assistance; and more!

Give an hour and you'll get much more in return. Benefits of volunteering include getting to know people you work with, meeting the speakers, helping your Participating Society, and, of course, providing a wonderful experience for all conference attendees.

Please go to the NERGC website to sign up to volunteer.

We're grateful to all our volunteers, and we look forward to seeing you at the conference!

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

NERGC 2027 Hotel Reservations Are Open!

NERGC 2027 will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine — and if you'd like to stay right where the action is, don't wait too long to book your room! A limited number of Mobility and Communication Accessibility rooms have been added to our block, so we encourage those who need them to reserve early.

All reservations should be made through the Hotel Reservation Portal at nergc.org/hotel-2027.

Need help with your reservation? Reach out to the Tri-Chairs at 2027-Trichairs@nergc.org and someone will get back to you.

For questions about Mobility, Hearing, or Visual Accessibility at the conference, please contact accessibility@nergc.org.

WORKSHOPS FOR 2027

The NERGC definition of a Workshop is a 2-hour session where attendees have time for hands-on application of what is demonstrated or discussed. NERGC 2027 includes five such opportunities.

Wednesday's workshops focus on AI (Artificial Intelligence) with *LLM Prompt Mastery for Genealogists* by Rob Weir in the morning followed by *Gemini Notebook (Formerly Notebook LM) for Genealogists: Organizing Research with AI* by Linda Debe in the afternoon. You can attend these workshops without registering for the full conference.

During the conference, there are three workshop opportunities. Each has an additional cost associated and requires conference registration as well. Thursday's workshops take place from 8-10 in the morning, before the conference's opening session. Claire Smith will help you *Supercharge Your Genealogy Research Using AI* and Linda Debe will get you working to *Navigate Metes and Bounds in Land Platting*.

On Friday afternoon, Kelli Bergheimer will take you *From DNA Match to Tree: Genetic Networks* for two hours.

All Workshops have some requirements, and you should review those on the NERGC website to ensure you have the required accounts and equipment lined up before attending on April 14-16, 2027.

LIVE STREAMING NEW IN 2027

We partnered with some of our speakers to offer their sessions both in-person and as a live stream for remote attendees during the three days of the conference. These pre-selected sessions will not be recorded. This is a virtual attendance option for audio and video of the pre-selected sessions only. At the end of each presentation, you'll have the opportunity to submit questions through a Q&A chat box.

The Zoom links for the sessions you registered for will be emailed to you prior to the start of the conference. The full conference syllabus will be available to you either as the free download or the Print-on-Demand Book.

Watch for the full details on the session presentations in the registration brochure that will be coming out soon.



CONFERENCE SESSIONS

All 75 of our conference sessions indicate a level of knowledge appropriate to the subject matter. The speaker assigns these levels. Keep in mind that no genealogist is a Novice or an Expert in all topics.

For those of you looking for more entry-level sessions, we're offering 30 sessions on topics related to various uses of Artificial Intelligence to Acadian, House, WWI Army Record, DNA, and French-Canadian Research. There are also sessions on methodologies such as Research Logs, Finding Living Relatives, and using websites such as FamilySearch, MyHeritage, and Ancestry.

Sessions labelled "General Interest" can also be great places to advance your skills or knowledge regarding topics. Social History, Putting Things in Context, Engaging Family, Photo Organizing, Mapping Ancestral Lives, and Records from Fraternal Organizations all fall into this category and apply to almost every researcher!

We're especially excited to offer a session on GenZ researchers! We hope all societies will have a representative at this session to learn how to prepare for younger members and the future of the group.

Many of our sessions fall into the Intermediate category. These include methodologies for technology as well as record types and research habits. Have you dug deep into a City Directory or Probate record in your research? Do you need help with Irish, Ulster-Scot, or DNA research? Perhaps you'd like to see what can be gleaned from a store register your ancestor kept or plan a visit to an ancestral home.

If you have been researching for a long time, perhaps our Advanced topics are more of what you are looking for. These talks tend to cover a more specific event, like the Amistad Trials, or an earlier time period, like 1790 Immigration. Forensic Genealogy, The Splendid Little War, Loyalists, and the New England practice of Warning Out will all be covered during the conference for those with more specific research needs.

We concentrate on New England, but also on our host location. There are many sessions specific to Maine, our host location. Some will brush these off because they don't know of any ancestors from Maine, but geographic based sessions can still show you methods and techniques for researching in your own applicable geographic area. If the topic of maps, Northeast migration before 1860, or a behind the scenes look at census taking, for instance, could enhance your research skills in unknown ways.



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/>



Thank You to Our Sponsors



We offer our sincere gratitude to all our Conference sponsors and hope that our attendees and other parties interested in our Conference will support these organizations.

Lighthouse



[Essex Society of Genealogists](#)

Scallops

[American-Canadian Genealogical Society](#)

Oysters

[Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor](#)

[Evidentia Software, LLC](#)

[Family History StoryBooks](#)

[Maine State Organization Daughters of the American Revolution](#)

[Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants](#)

Are you interested in becoming a sponsor for the 2027 NERGC Conference? Please click the button below for more information to become a sponsor today.

[Become a Sponsor](#)

FROM THE EXHIBIT HALL COMMITTEE

Welcome to the 2027 NERGC Exhibit Hall!

The Exhibit Hall, to be located in the Casco Bay Exhibit Hall at the Holiday Inn Portland-By the Bay, in Portland, Maine, will hold up to 72, 8" x 10" exhibitor booths. All booths will include electricity.

The Exhibitor Application, Exhibitor Agreement, the Terms and Conditions and Exhibit Hall floor plan have been posted on the NERGC website. If you have exhibited with NERGC at a prior conference, please check your email as you should have received an invitation to participate in the Exhibit Hall. If you have not heard from us, is it because the contact person or the email address has changed? Please let us know so we can update our records and provide you with the necessary forms and information.

Are you receiving our e-zines for the first time and would be interested in learning more about participating in the Exhibit Hall? If so, please email us at exhibithall@nergc.org to learn more.

Please be sure to check future e-zines, as well as the NERGC website, www.nergc.org, to learn which vendors will be participating in our Exhibit Hall.



SYLLABUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Place an ad in our conference Syllabus, distributed to all registered attendees — approximately 500 people in 2025. The Syllabus is available electronically via email, on a flash drive, and in printed form, giving your ad extended visibility. This is a great opportunity to reach a highly engaged genealogical audience and highlight your organization, services, or upcoming programs.

Completed ad artwork should be emailed to ads@nergc.org. The deadline for all submissions is December 15, 2026.

Full Page	\$120 (7.25" x 9")
Half Page	\$65 (7.25" x 4.25" or 3.5" x 9")
Quarter Page	\$35 (4.25" x 3.5")
Business Card	\$25 (2" x 3.5")

Ads can be submitted as vector art in DPF format, or as 300 dpi raster (bitmap) images in JPG, PNG, or TIFF format. Images should be in RGB color, but should be designed to look acceptable if printed in B&W. If saved as JPG, please use the highest quality (lowest compression) available in your software.

All ads are subject to review and NERGC reserves the right to refuse any submitted advertisement.

For payment options please go to <https://nergc.org/advertise/>.

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/>

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/NERGC>

VISIT OUR BLOG

<https://www.NERGC.org/blog>