

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

Family—a Link to the Past &



a Bridge to the Future

3-6 April 2019  
Manchester, NH

E-zine 4 October 2018

## Welcome to NERGC 2019!

We are excited to be bringing the Fifteenth New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) back to the great city of Manchester, New Hampshire. The Conference will be held 4-6 April 2019, with special pre-Conference activities including special tracks and a Research Overview Tour taking place on 3 April, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown (formerly the Radisson Hotel). The Exhibit Hall will be in the Expo Center adjacent to the hotel.

The Program Committee is excited about the many opportunities in Manchester! Whether you are a beginner or an expert genealogist, there will be lectures, workshops, and special events for your education and entertainment. Are you interested in DNA? Do you want to learn some new genealogical research methodologies from industry leaders? You'll find it at NERGC 2019! Our nationally recognized speakers will include Blaine Bettinger, well known for his work with genetic genealogy; Dr. Thomas Jones, PhD, an award-winning genealogical researcher, writer, editor, and educator; and Cyndi Ingle, the developer and owner of "Cyndi's List." As always, the Conference will include an Ancestors Road Show, Society Fair, and many other activities. We continue to grow with each Conference and anticipate matching or exceeding the 2017 attendance record of over 1,000 enthusiastic genealogists, not only from New England but from across the country.

Watch for exciting program announcements on the NERGC blog, <https://nergc.blogspot.com/NERGC> and Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/NERGC> in the coming weeks. Between now and April 2019, we'll also be providing updates on the Conference through periodic E-zines like this one. This issue (and back issues) are available at [www.nergc.org/e-zines/](http://www.nergc.org/e-zines/). Please share the links with your friends and associates – and anyone else you feel may be interested in attending the Conference.

**Registration for NERGC 2019 won't begin until mid-November**, but you can start making plans now. Continue to follow our E-zines to keep up-to-date on the planning and the excitement of this Conference.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

The Fifteenth New England Regional Genealogical Conference is being held at the former Radisson, currently the Manchester Downtown Hotel, but which will be the Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Downtown Hotel by the time of the Conference. It is situated just 1 hour north of Boston; 1 hour west of Portsmouth; 2 hours north of Providence; 2.5 hours north of Springfield and Hartford; and 3 hours south of Burlington. Be sure to book early if you want to stay in the Conference hotel. Rooms are currently available from Tuesday evening, April 2 through Sunday night, April 7. **To receive the Conference rate, room reservations need to be made through the Manchester Downtown Hotel telephone number, (603) 625-1000 and not through the hotel website or Hilton.**

### Manchester Downtown Hotel

700 Elm Street

Manchester, NH 03101

Telephone: +1 (603) 625-1000

Conference Rate: \$164.00 single/double; \$174.00 triple; \$184.00 quad. Please note that these room rates include a \$10.00 rebate per room-night payable to NERGC to help offset Conference expenses.

**When you make your reservation, mention "New England Regional Genealogical Conference" (not "NERGC"), and mention the date of April 3, 2019 to secure the Conference rate.**

Parking is \$12.00 per night for overnight parking or \$6.00 per day (until midnight) without in and out privileges for commuters. Parking tickets must be validated at NERGC's registration desk to receive the discounted rate.

Check-in 3:00 p.m. Check-out 11:00 a.m.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### **Introducing our Thursday, April 4 Opening Session Speaker: Genealogy and the Internet – A Match Made in Heaven with Cyndi Ingle from Cyndi's List**



The Internet was made for genealogy. It really was. All the cool things we can do online make our life much easier and our research more productive: searching, sharing, publishing, and more. But, the Internet is also filled with pitfalls that hinder us: searching, sharing, publishing, and more. The trick is to learn to be savvy about using all the online tools available to us to make this truly a match made in heaven.

Cyndi Ingle is the owner and creator of *Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet*, [www.CyndisList.com](http://www.CyndisList.com), a categorized index to over 336,000 online resources. *Cyndi's List* is an award-winning site which helps millions of visitors worldwide. Cyndi, a genealogist for more than 38 years, is the recipient of the 2016 National Genealogical Society President's Citation and is a past-member of the board of directors for

NGS. She is the author of three books for genealogical research on the Internet titled, *Netting Your Ancestors*, *Cyndi's List*, and *Planting Your Family Tree Online: How to Create Your Own Family History Web Site*.

### **New for NERGC 2019: Featured Speaker Workshop Series**

**Each afternoon one of the featured speakers will be giving a special workshop with limited seating capacity. Learn from some of the best in genealogy during a two-hour workshop designed to optimize your interactive learning experience. Prior registration is required. The cost to attend a workshop is \$35 with seating capacity limited to 30 participants.**

#### **Thursday - Intermediate Level** -- Third Party Tools with Blaine Bettinger

What else can you do with your DNA test results? During this workshop, we will look at third-party platforms such as [GEDmatch](http://GEDmatch.com) and [DNAPainter](http://DNAPainter.com), and the many powerful things we can do with them, including mapping our DNA. Hands-on exercises offer an opportunity to explore tools that are sometimes too daunting to jump into alone!

#### **Friday - All Level** -- Crafting Successful Searches with Cyndi Ingle from Cyndi's List

Whether you're using Ancestry, FamilySearch, Google, or any other searchable database online, there is an art to a well-crafted search. We will cover search strategies, tips, and tricks to make your time online more productive for your research.

#### **Saturday - Advanced Level** -- Comparing Evidence and Resolving Conflicts with Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., GC©, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

This workshop covers formats and techniques for comparing and contrasting ("correlating") genealogical information to identify points of agreement and disagreement, reveal evidence that isolated information does not state, and resolve conflicts to establish working hypotheses and conclusions.

## SEEKING INPUT FOR TABLE TOPICS LUNCHEON

The New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (NEAPG) is pleased to host a Table Topics luncheon during NERGC as we have done for the past several years. Each table will be hosted by a professional genealogist and discussion will focus on a specific topic, such as beginning DNA for genealogy, researching in specific ethnic/cultural groups (separate tables for Irish, French-Canadian, etc.), and research in specific locales (separate tables for Rhode Island, New Hampshire, etc.)

We are interested in hearing which topics you would like to see as part of this luncheon, even if you are not sure you will attend the luncheon. Please email Lori Lyn Price ([bridgingthepast@gmail.com](mailto:bridgingthepast@gmail.com)) with your suggestions."

## BE AN EXHIBITOR!

Is your organization or business interested in our exhibitor-friendly NERGC Exhibit Hall?

Generous unopposed exhibit time between sessions, two-hour lunch breaks and an exhibit hall that is open to the public are some of the reasons many vendors experience more success at a NERGC conference.

The Exhibit Hall will be open three days, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Exhibitor move-in is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Breakdown of booths is after the Exhibit Hall closes at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Each initial booth is \$175.00. All additional booths are \$125.00 each. One full conference registration is offered with each booth purchased. (Please note that meals and other cost-associated activities are not included with a conference registration.)

If you have not yet received an invitation to participate and are interested in exhibiting, please be sure to send your organization's name and contact information so we may be sure to send you the details.

You can also go to the website to obtain the Exhibitor Application, Exhibitor's Agreement, Term and Conditions and the Exhibit Hall floor plan. Visit the website at: <http://www.nergc.org/exhibithall/>

Currently there are 10 booths available. Booth requests are filled on a first come basis. Be sure to get your application in before the Exhibit Hall is sold out!

Any questions should be emailed to: [nergcexhibits@gmail.com](mailto:nergcexhibits@gmail.com).

## SOCIETY FAIR

Thursday evening, April 3, 2019

**SOLD OUT**

**We will accept requests for the Wait List.**

Please submit to Phyllis Day, Chair, at [ccphyl@gmail.com](mailto:ccphyl@gmail.com) (new email address).

There will be five NEW attendees this year. Two of our new groups are the Essex Society of Genealogists and the French Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut. We welcome them and look forward to their participation. The remaining new attendees will be highlighted in upcoming E-zines.

## LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS SHOWCASE BOTH FRIDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> AND SATURDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>

NERGC is seeking libraries, archives and museums with special collections of interest to genealogists and researchers to join us in Manchester. Our Libraries Archives, and Museums Showcase was a huge success in Springfield in 2017, and we're looking to expand.

One table, two chairs, and signage are available at no cost for informational exhibits about special collections on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Organizations are welcome to participate on either day. No sales are allowed. These tables will be the ones the Society Fair will utilize on Thursday evening, so there will be plenty of room. The Conference's daily newsletter will include the day's participants for all to see.

If you want to participate or have questions, please email Phyllis Day, Library Archive Chair at [ccphyl@gmail.com](mailto:ccphyl@gmail.com) (new email address).

## PLACE AN AD IN THE CONFERENCE SYLLABUS

Are you a professional genealogist? A member of an historical society with publications or merchandise to sell? A member of a family association or a genealogical society? A publishing company who publishes family histories? Or ... Any number of people and organizations will benefit when they place an ad in the 2019 NERGC conference syllabus. The ad will share your information with others and make them aware of your merchandise, publications, and services. Do you need a researcher in a particular part of the country? Are you looking for a specific book or item? The 2019 NERGC syllabus will reach more than the 900+ expected to attend the conference. Yes, the Internet and Facebook do make searching for your needs easier, but remember not everyone uses the Internet or can use it to search effectively. Print ads can make a difference. Before the conference the syllabus material, including the ads, will be issued to those registered. The ads can be used to alert folks to search for a specific conference vendor. Additionally, the ads in the syllabus will be available for years in various societies and libraries who have sent representatives to the 2019 conference. Before November 11, 2018 send ads for the 2019 NERGC Conference Syllabus (electronic and/or hard copies) and funds for the ads to Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz, 1 Peg's Way, Hopkinton, MA 01748. If you e-mail your ad, please include "NERGC Ad" in the subject line. Checks should be made payable to NERGC. Contact Julie ([bjszczep@comcast.net](mailto:bjszczep@comcast.net)) for ad templates. Ads cost \$200 for the inside back cover ad (greyscale), \$100 for a full page ad, \$55 for a half page ad, \$30 for a quarter page ad, and \$25 for a business card size ad.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

Many sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information, go to <http://www.nergc.org/sponsor-or-advertise/>.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

NERGC conferences have been successful due to the talent and dedication of its all-volunteer staff. There are many opportunities to help if you're interested. For registered attendees, the jobs include session host, session introduction, session door monitors, evaluation collection, meal ticket collection, audio-visual assistance. For non-registered and registered attendees, jobs include Registration sign-in, volunteer table, the hospitality table, vendor hall, Ancestors Roadshow, Hall guides, door prizes, signage, office monitor. It's never too early to start thinking of how you could donate your time and talents to help with this all volunteer run conference. We'll be publishing more information on how you can volunteer in future E-zines and on the NERGC Web page, so keep an eye out for how to be a major part of this great event.

## Do you have needs related to mobility, hearing, vision which might affect your ability to fully and comfortably participate in NERGC 2019?

Although brochures and the online registration process for NERGC 2019 won't be available until the fall, it is not too early for you begin to take advantage of the coordination assistance NERGC provides to persons with special needs. **If you are considering the feasibility of attending the Conference, we invite you to discuss your potential needs NOW.** Feel free to e-mail Pamela Roberts, PT, EdD. or call her at 860-486-2406. Dr. Roberts is a trained ADA evaluator and physical therapist with 40 years of experience who has volunteered her expertise to collect and share local resources for your pre-planning purposes whether you are a potential vendor, speaker, volunteer, or attendee. Please share your concerns related to your needs. Dr. Roberts will interface with you, other volunteers, and the hotel to help make your Conference experience the best it can be.

Pamela L. Roberts, EdD, PT  
[drpampt@gmail.com](mailto:drpampt@gmail.com)

## WEDNESDAY EVENTS

**Wednesday, April 3** is technically the day before the Conference, but since we have the whole building for the whole day, why not take advantage of the space? Well, we are! We have an entire day of special events planned for 'the day before'! These optional activities include a bus tour of genealogical research sites (see the information at the bottom of this page) and Librarians Day (featured in E-zine 3), there will be stand-alone workshops you can attend for a fee but without having to pay for a Conference registration as well as Special Tracks for DNA, Tech, Professionals, and Societies. DNA Day, Tech Day, Professionals Day, and Societies Day will each cost \$50 and will include four sessions plus a buffet luncheon featuring Daniel Horowitz as speaker.

**Lunch and speaker presentation at Wednesday Lunch—Discovering Your Family History with MyHeritage Unique Technologies.** Daniel Horowitz is the genealogy expert at MyHeritage, liaising with genealogy societies, bloggers and media, as well as lecturing around the world. Technology has opened new frontiers for research while maintaining the thrill of the detective hunt. MyHeritage technologies are precisely at the intersection of technology and genealogy. First came the family tree platform, enabling users to share their knowledge with relatives and search for new information in historical databases. Next came matching capabilities, revealing connections between family trees; this technology was later applied to record collections, revealing new information from historical records that matches individuals in the family tree. MyHeritage's unique translation and transliteration capabilities followed, allowing users to enjoy useful discoveries no matter the language of the source material. The next arena is applying all this innovation and genealogical expertise to the possibilities presented by DNA testing.

**D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS,** is the President of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, a professional genealogist, and host on Genealogy Roadshow (PBS). Josh will share his expertise as a speaker at NERGC's Tech Day and Society Day.

- **TECH DAY: Beyond the Facts: Digitally Preserving the Research Process.** In the course of our research, genealogists often gather thousands of notes and theories without coming to definitive conclusions. In this lecture, we will explore digital tools to preserve these materials for the future—focusing on preserving research materials for future generations and including an overview of multiple tools (Trello, Brightpod, Rowshare, and Dropbox) followed by a discussion of preservation methods (documents, spreadsheets, images, family trees, video, and audio). A sample projects will be displayed, featuring New England families using a combination of the methods previously discussed. LECTURE sponsored by New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.
- **SOCIETY DAY: Creating, Packing, and Sharing Your Society to Non-Genealogists.** This session will discuss ideas and tools to assist you in introducing your genealogical society to your local community—especially for those who have little or no expressed interest in genealogy. Specifically, we will focus on ways to package genealogical societies for non-genealogical partners, including local media, donors, charitable organizations, and politicians. We will first work on understanding a society's mission statement through the eyes of a non-genealogist - and look at examples of mission statements from outside the genealogical community. We will then focus specifically on generating media pitches for your organization, including specific examples for generating genealogical tourism, pitching your events (conferences, seminars, etc.) and major projects (indexing, preservation, etc.).

Watch for additional offerings in upcoming issues of the E-zine.

### RESEARCH OVERVIEW—BUS TOUR

On Wednesday, April 3, 2019, a Research Overview Bus Tour will be provided for all who are interested in learning about several genealogical research sites in southern New Hampshire. The Tour will depart the Conference hotel at 10:00 a.m. and return by 3:00 p.m. and will include the American-Canadian Genealogical Society, the Manchester Historical Association, a tour or a description of the Manchester City Library, the New Hampshire Historical Society Library in Concord, and the New Hampshire State Library in Concord. Participants will then be able to return on their own to carry out individual research. The cost for the Tour is \$35 per person, and our stop for lunch in Concord will be "Dutch-treat". Limit of 50 participants; fee will be returned if we have insufficient enrollment. Include the Bus Tour payment as part of your regular Conference registration. Questions? Contact David Martin at [davidmartindr@aol.com](mailto:davidmartindr@aol.com) or Cindy O'Neil at [oneilcyn@comcast.net](mailto:oneilcyn@comcast.net).

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE DONNA HOLT SIEMIATKOSKI VOLUNTEER AWARD

**Deadline for nominations for the 2019 Award  
is Thursday, 15 November 2018**

The Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Genealogy Volunteer Award is presented at each New England Regional Genealogical Conference to a person who has provided outstanding volunteer service to the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium or its member societies, and as such to the field of genealogy, over and above the job they were elected or appointed to do. Donna was a founder of the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor and served as its first President. She served on the Board of Governors of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists and was their representative to the Federation of Genealogical Societies. She was instrumental in the formation of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council. As a delegate to NERGC, Donna encouraged members of New England's genealogical community to work together for the common good.

Member societies in NERGC are strongly encouraged to nominate for the 2019 Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Award people whose service to our organizations and consortium follows Donna's example.

Nominations should include a summary of the nominee's activity and a statement from the nominating organization of the reasons for believing that the nominee is a particularly suitable candidate for the award.

Please send all nominating information by November 15, 2018, to NERGC President John A. Leppman, 20 Thwing Lane, Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101, or by e-mail at [jleppman@sover.net](mailto:jleppman@sover.net).

Thanks to all NERGC organizations for helping us find a good award recipient!

### From the Blogging Chairs

We will once again be selecting Official Bloggers to highlight speaker information prior to the Conference, and to share experiences during the Conference. Blog posts will be shared on the NERGC site and social media. Stay tuned for the call for applications. There will be a designated location in the Conference hall for Official Bloggers to keep their devices charged and have a quiet place to write.

To member societies who sponsor speakers, we are asking that you designate someone to write a profile of your sponsored speaker and post it. Our goal is to get information out there on as many of our speakers as possible and share the load with our Official Bloggers. Please let us know if you do not have a society blog and we will find a suitable place to post it. When the lineup of speakers is determined, we will be in touch to get this process going. Thank you.

Sara Campbell & Heather Rojo

### VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

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

### VISIT OUR BLOG

<https://nergc.blogspot.com>

### WANT TO RECEIVE THE E-ZINE?

To sign up for the E-zine, please contact Richard Roberts: [RCR1861@Gmail.com](mailto:RCR1861@Gmail.com) and use "Subscribe NERGC E-zine" as the subject of the message.

Watch for the next E-zine in November, 2018.