

16th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



14-17 April 2021
Springfield, MA

E-zine 1 February 2020

Welcome to NERGC 2021!

The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC) invites you to join us at our sixteenth conference 14-17 April 2021 in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The Conference Committee is planning special tracks and other events on Wednesday, regular conference presentations on Thursday through Saturday, as well as the Exhibit Hall, Ancestors Road Show, Society Fair, and other events. The Conference hotel will have rooms available at the Conference rate from Tuesday evening through Sunday night.

Registration for NERGC 2021 won't begin until next fall, 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.



The deadline for submitting lecture and workshop proposals for NERGC 2021 is now March 15, 2020 at NOON. The Call is posted at <https://nergc.org/2021-conference-2/call-for-papers/>. Those interested in submitting proposals should do through the [submission portal](#).

WHAT IS NERGC?

While many think of NERGC as a Conference, it is really much more. Formed almost 30 years ago to bring cutting-edge genealogical education to New England family historians, the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc., has produced fifteen conferences, meeting in every New England state at least once. The most recent Conference, held in 2019 in

Manchester, NH, was attended by 1,024 participants, speakers, and exhibitors from more than twenty states and Canada. Each Conference is made possible by many hours of work by volunteers from the Consortium's Participating Societies. Here are some participants' comments from our 2019 Conference in Manchester:

I love this conference. It is affordable and very helpful and honestly has gotten only better over time.

I enjoyed every minute very much. Thank you very much.

It was a wonderful conference. The parking, exhibits, dining rooms, and session rooms were all very conveniently located, especially for old folks with walking problems.

The conference as a whole was excellent! The speakers were fantastic!

I think everyone involved in this huge event deserves an enthusiastic round of applause for a job well done. Everyone was helpful, friendly and more than willing to share their ideas, experiences, insights, and expertise with one another. What's not to like! It was a great experience.

You do a phenomenal job and can't think of anything that would be an improvement. Your team is excellent. The amount of coordination required to pull this conference off is extraordinary, and this humble participant can find no fault. I look forward to 2021.

2019 Volunteer of the Year Award Presented to Mary Choppa



The Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Genealogy Volunteer Award is presented biennially to an individual who has provided outstanding volunteer service to the New England Regional Genealogical Conference or its member societies, and as such to the field of genealogy, over and above the job to which they were elected or appointed to do. The 2019 award was presented to Mary Choppa by NERGC President at the Friday night banquet. Citing her active and ongoing participation in NERGC, her steady leadership over time for TIARA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association), and her vision in conceiving and bringing to reality the successful Celtic Connections Conference.

OUR 2021 CONFERENCE THEME

In 2021, we will be at the MassMutual Center (www.massmutualcenter.com) in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Conference theme is “Springing from the Past into the Future”. In keeping with that theme, sessions will cover:

- DNA methodologies, case studies, etc.
- Interesting uses of records including religious, civil, land, probate, military, maritime, and newspapers
- New England records and repositories
- Problem solving, methodology, and new approaches to traditional research
- Research specifically focused on social, cultural, racial and ethnic groups
- Sharing and preserving your family history through writing, photography, digital media, etc.
- Successful research planning and project implementation
- Technology: Providing solutions to improve genealogical research
- Understanding historical context related to genealogy

Meet Our Conference Chairs

Mary Elizabeth Choppa, past president of TIARA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association) is a native of Youngstown, Ohio. She moved to New England in 1984 and there she has remained. Currently she works at the Elliot Hospital in Manchester, NH as a vendor support analyst. She has served as Registration and Volunteer Chair/Co-Chair for the past several NERGC conferences. She worked with TIARA and IGSI (Irish Genealogy Society International, MN) planning the Celtic Connections Conference (CCI) held in August 2018 and is now working with IGSI on CCC 2020 to be held in Wheeling, IL 31 July - 1 August 2020. Mary was the recipient of NERGC's 2019 Volunteer Award. She's traced her Italian roots to Bellona, Campania, Italy and her Irish roots to Lismore, Co. Waterford and Carrive, Co. Armagh.

Judy Goss

Judy Goss has dabbled in genealogy on and off since high school. Her father's family is rooted for several generations in Vermont, extending back to other New England States. Her mother's forebears are more recent arrivals from Counties Armagh and Donegal, and Slovakia. She has volunteered at previous NERGCs.

Seema Kenney dove back into genealogy in 2009 when her children were all in college. She attended, and volunteered at, her first NERGC in 2011 in Springfield and served as the Chair for Tech Day for 2013 and 2015. She was Tri-Chair of the 2017 Conference in Springfield. Seema is an officer for MSOG, NEAPG, and NERGC. In exploring her New England roots, Seema is also a member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists and the Maine Genealogical Society.

Meet Our NERGC 2021 Featured Speakers

Angie Bush

With formal degrees in molecular biology and biotechnology, Angie Bush understands DNA testing and its applications in genetic genealogy. Whether it's a matter of helping family historians sort out the test results and information they receive from the various genetic genealogy testing companies or designing and implementing a sophisticated DNA testing plan to answer difficult genealogical research questions, Angie gets the job done. She has been researching the history of her own family for over 20 years and has helped many individuals in identifying their ancestors and discovering details about their lives. She has significant experience in software and web-based technologies, is familiar with key websites relevant to family history research, and has spent hundreds of hours poring over records housed by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Dear Myrtle



DearMYRTLE is the *nom de plume* of Pat Richley-Erickson, author of the award-winning [DearMYRTLE Genealogy Blog](#), consistently ranked among the top five family history blogs internationally, where her focus is on beginning genealogy topics. She is the National Genealogical Society's [2015 President's Citation](#) recipient. Renowned for multiple live video hangouts weekly, including *Mondays with Myrt* and *Wacky Wednesday*, DearMYRTLE eschews the lecture format in favor of the "homework first with panelist moderation format" in her *Mastering Genealogical Proof and Genealogy and the Law* and other study group sessions. Over 400 videos are archived on [DearMYRTLE's YouTube Channel](#). A speaker at regional and national conferences including live videocasts at RootsTech 2011 and 2012, Myrt is co-founder of the [Genea-Quilters group on Facebook](#), and founder of [GeneaWebinars](#), a centralized calendar and blog for all known genealogy webinar hosts and virtual presenters. Pat is also an active member of the Second Life (SL) Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and coordinator of SL's Just Genealogy including the Inferential Genealogy Study Group. Online since 1985 in membership development with Q-Link's Your Family Tree and later on the leadership team of AOL's Golden Gate Genealogy Forum, Pat is a retired post-secondary computer instructor. She and her husband live in South Jordan, Utah, happily combining their genealogy and history libraries following their marriage in 2009.

John Grenham

John Grenham is well-known to those researching Irish ancestors. He came to professional genealogy in 1981 as one of the panel of Genealogical Office (GO) researchers and later worked for Hibernian Research. As in-house researcher for the GO in 1990-91, he was instrumental in setting up the GO Consultation Service, the forerunner of the current Advisory Services in the National Library and National Archives. He joined the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland (APGI), the forerunner to the Accredited Genealogists in Ireland (AGI), in 1988. He was Project Manager with the Irish Genealogical Project from 1991 to 1995 and later went on to develop and market his own genealogical software, *Grenham's Irish Recordfinder*. He ran the Irish Times Irish Ancestors website from 1998 to 2016. It now [runs on his own site](#). In 2005, he was the first Genealogist-in-Residence at Dublin City Library. He was awarded a fellowship of [The Irish Genealogical Research Society](#) in 2007 and of the [Genealogical Society of Ireland](#) in 2010. Among his publications are the standard guide to Irish genealogy, [Tracing your Irish Ancestors](#) (5th ed. 2012), *Clans and Families of Ireland* (1995), *Generations* (1996), "The Genealogical Office and its Records" in *The Genealogical Office*, (1999), *Grenham's Irish Surnames* (CD-ROM, 2003) and numerous articles and columns in the UK magazine *Your Family Tree*. He wrote the "[Irish Roots](#)" column and blog in *The Irish Times* between 2009 and 2016. The blog is now [here](#) at John's website. In 2011, along with Irish Times Training, he developed and launched an online genealogical course. In 2011 and 2014, he was co-presenter of the RTE television program "The Genealogy Roadshow." Between 2014 and 2018, he delivered six, ten-week Diploma in Family History courses at City Colleges in Dublin.



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, send an e-mail to RCR1861@gmail.com with "Subscribe NERGC E-zine" as the subject of the message or provide your e-mail address when you register for the Conference.

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Watch for the next E-zine in July.