

May 2021

New England Genealogy
Covered in NERGC 2021

Syllabus and Schedule

Stream NERGC 2021 Sessions

About New England Genealogy Research

Throughout May 2021

Join the Demanding Genealogist

For Zoom Breakouts

Weekly During May 2021

The Demanding Genealogist
Demanding quality in genealogy since 1984.

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NOTICE: This effort to use NERGC 2021 content effectively is an independent *pro bono* project. It is not a part of the official NERGC program.

May 2021

The Opportunity:

The New England Regional Genealogy Conference (NERGC) 2021 offers 29 separate presentations on genealogical research in New England. It runs for the months of April and May 2021.

None of the well-known genealogy institutes offers a New England course. The Demanding Genealogist is offering NERGC 2021 attendees a way to treat this conference as if the second month was just such a genealogy research institute. This effort is completely unofficial and not a part of the NERGC program.

If you wish to follow along with us, you will have to register for NERGC 2021 in order to access the program content there.

How You Participate:

NERGC:

1. Gain access to the content by registering for NERGC 2021. [Click here to register for NERGC 2021.](#)
2. During April follow the NERGC gathering days and other live events while also viewing on-demand sessions that interest you.
3. During May continue to participate in NERGC's Live Chats.
4. In May, follow our weekly topic guidance as you plan your streaming presentations on New England.

Demanding Genealogist:

1. In May, join us at the beginning of each week for a Zoom meeting overview and discussion.
2. Join us June 1st for our wrap-up Zoom meeting.

Our four weeks are divided into these topics:

[Week 1: What Makes New England Unique](#)

[Week 2: Town Records](#)

[Week 3: Records and Repositories](#)

[Week 4: Migration](#)

MAY 2021

DemGen Breakouts are free but require pre-registration via Zoom.

All NERGC Live Chats are part of your NERGC registration.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
	02	03	04	05	06	07 08
	8:00 PM EST DemGen Breakout on What Makes New England Unique					
	09	10	11	12	13	14 15
Mother's Day	8:00 PM EST DemGen Breakout on Town Records	1:30 PM EST NERGC Live Chat: Vital Records				
	16	17	18	19	20	21 22
	8:00 PM EST DemGen Breakout on Repositories			3:00 PM EST NERGC Live Chat: Land Records		
	23	24	25	26	27	28 29
	8:00 PM EST DemGen Breakout on Migration					4:00 PM EST NERGC Live Chat: New England to New York
	30	31	June 1			
	10:00 AM EST NERGC Live Chat: Canada to New England Connections	8:00 PM EST DemGen Breakout, Any Other Questions?				

May 2021

For Attendees of the NERGC 2021 Conference: Join the Demanding Genealogist for Informal, Unofficial Breakouts

The Opportunity:

Talk with other people who are focusing on education in New England genealogy research.

- Demanding Genealogist Zoom meetings are free but registration is required.
- You must register for each event separately.
- There is a limit of 100 participants at each event.

Date and Time	Registration Link	Topic of the Week	Breakout Rooms
Sunday, May 2, 2021 8 PM Eastern (7 PM Central) (6 PM Mountain) (5 PM Pacific)	Click here to register for this week.	What Makes New England Research Different?	CT, RI, MA, NH, VT, ME
Monday, May 10, 2021 8 PM Eastern (7 PM Central) (6 PM Mountain) (5 PM Pacific)	Click here to register for this week.	What Records Were Kept by the Towns?	Vital Records, Deeds, Probate, Court, Town Meeting Records
Sunday, May 16, 2021 8 PM Eastern (7 PM Central) (6 PM Mountain) (5 PM Pacific)	Click here to register for this week.	Records and Repositories	Major resources and repositories
Sunday, May 23, 2021 8 PM Eastern (7 PM Central) (6 PM Mountain) (5 PM Pacific)	Click here to register for this week.	Migration Into, Within, and From New England	From England, From Ireland, To New York, Within New England, Other Paths
Tuesday, June 1, 2021 8 PM Eastern (7 PM Central) (6 PM Mountain) (5 PM Pacific)	Click here to register for this week.	What Questions Do We Still Have?	CT, RI, MA, NH, VT, ME

For Attendees of the NERGC 2021 Conference: Suggested Streaming Schedule for New England Topics

Week 1: What Makes New England Unique

State: Connecticut

Jennifer Zinck, "Finding and Using Connecticut Vital Records"

See this presentation to learn the laws about keeping vital records, plus all about the different versions of vital records available, and where to find them.

State: Connecticut

Pauline C Merrick, "Researching Freed and Enslaved Negroes in Colonial Connecticut"

See this presentation to learn a timeline of slavery in Connecticut, the laws governing slavery, and the resources and tools to find slaves in Connecticut.

State: Maine

Carol McCoy, "Creating Maine Towns: The Process and the Records"

See this presentation to learn about early Maine history and how the wars, land disputes, and harsh weather affected record-keeping. Learn about proprietor and town records and where to find them.

State: Massachusetts

Margaret Fortier, "Baystate Bonanza: Four Centuries of Vital Records"

See this presentation to learn about the evolution of vital records in Massachusetts from 1620 to the present, and where to find those records, whether online or onsite.

State: New Hampshire

Diane Florence Gravel, "Roots in Granite: Finding Your New Hampshire Ancestors"

See this presentation to learn about the basics of New Hampshire family history research.

State: Rhode Island

Cheryl Fletcher Bamberg, "Odd Colony Out: Rhode Island's Beginnings"

See this presentation to learn how Rhode Island is different from the other five New England states. Religious diversity, small towns, and refugees from surrounding colonies affected Rhode Island family history.

State: Rhode Island

Diane MacLean Boumenot, "Tips for Navigating Rhode Island Records"

See this presentation to learn about unique resources available for Rhode Island researchers. Learn what makes Rhode Island immigration different in the federal period and get tips for finding your family in Rhode Island.

State: Vermont

Scott Andrew Bartley, "Early Vermont Settlement to 1771 and the Records"

See this presentation to learn about Vermont's position as the last frontier in New England. Learn about the prosopographical research of the Early Vermont Settlers project at NEHGS.

State: Coastlines

B.J. Jamieson, "New England's Seventh 'State': Living Along the Coast"

See this presentation to learn about the role of water as New England's original colonial highway. Sea-faring generated a unique set of records that are full of genealogy information that you don't want to miss.

Week 2: Town Records

Records: Maritime

Stephen Hartwell, "Maritime Records of Essex County, Massachusetts"

See this presentation to learn about records unique to Essex County, Massachusetts, and Salem, its county seat. Learn how to research online and locally for people who "made their living from the sea." These are skills to transfer to New England's many other coastal locations.

Records: Court

Melanie McComb, "New England Court Records"

See this presentation to learn about Particular Courts, Quarterly Courts, General Courts, and where to find all those records that provide unusual views of your ancestors. Learn about online, published and on-location resources.

Records: Land

Melanie McComb, "New England Land Records"

See this presentation to learn about what makes New England so uniquely different to research, from original land grants and distributions to metes-and-bounds, deeds of gift, and other records, from the colonial to the modern period. Learn about online, published and on location resources.

Records: Probate

David Allen Lambert, "New England Probate Records"

See this presentation to learn how New England colonies and states organized probate records and where to find them. Learn from examples showing that this type of record is particularly effective for breaking through brick walls. Learn about online, published and on-location resources.

Records: Town

Lori Lyn Price, "Mining Town Records: Treasure Troves of Social History"

See this presentation to learn about the history, annual reports, newspapers, circulars, and websites that will mention your ancestor. Here is a resource that many researchers miss.

Records: Town

Pam Guye Holland, "Get Local for Research Success"

See this presentation to learn what you can find by digging into your town-level research. A case study from Chesterfield, New Hampshire, will motivate you to use these records to find success.

Week 3: Records and Repositories

Records: Boston

David Allen Lambert, "Boston Resources for the Genealogist and Historian"

See this presentation to learn about local genealogical records for Boston, Massachusetts for the 17th through 20th centuries.

Records: Catholic

Margaret Fortier, "A Whole New World of Catholic Records"

See this presentation to learn about exciting developments in Catholic records (US and International), what the records contain, and how to find them online and offline.

Records: Graveyards

Edwin W. Strickland, II, "No Stone Unturned: Getting the Most from Graveyards"

See this presentation to learn about the evolution of the burial ground to the memorial park. Move beyond gravestones to use other records (including cemetery, sexton, funeral home records), to glean the most information of our families.

Records: Women

Jane E Wilcox, "Tale of Woe: A 1700s Connecticut Woman's Story"

See this presentation to learn about Margaret Wilcockson's story. It has been published inaccurately and incompletely. This case study demonstrates how historical context using authored sources, laws, and original sources retell an unwed mother's life in the early eighteenth century with greater accuracy and understanding.

Records: Slavery

Diane L Richard, "Digital Library on American Slavery – Invaluable Resource"

See this presentation to learn about the DLAS which is several projects complemented by other online resources focusing on slave petitions, bills of sale, runaway slave advertisements, and more.

Records: African-American

Meaghan E. H. Siekman, Ph.D., "African-American Resources in New England"

See this presentation to learn about the resources available physically and online through NEHGS and other New England repositories to assist you with researching African-American ancestors. This talk will highlight useful collections including published genealogies, local histories, original manuscripts, rare documents, and online databases plus provide advice for searching for less obvious source material in archives and repositories in New England.

Week 4: Migration Into, Within, and From New England

Migration within New England

Beth Finch McCarthy, "Find Your Colonial Ancestors with Settlement Patterns"

See this presentation to learn about how a seemingly empty colonial burial ground led to uncovering a group of Puritan families who settled the Massachusetts Bay Colony during the Great Pilgrim Migration. As the story unfolds, you will learn how to place your own ancestor into historical context and effectively locate historical records, burial ground studies, and other important evidence sources.

Migration: African-American

Janice Lovelace, "Finding Freedom: New England's Role in the Underground Railroad"

See this presentation to learn about how the Northeast was very active in Underground Railroad activities. Learn about how the railroad functioned, how to find conductors, and how to figure out if your family was involved.

Migration into New England

Adina Newman, "The Jews of New England"

See this presentation to learn about the rich and dynamic history of New England's Jewish population. New England's Jews were a dynamic community. Various resources and repositories to conduct Jewish genealogical research in each of the New England states will also be discussed.

Migration Links Canada

David Allen Lambert, "Paths to Nova Scotia: Colonial to 20th century Resources"

See this presentation to learn about the resources from Colonial Acadia through 20th century Nova Scotia. The topics will discuss collections ranging from small archives to the Provincial Archives in Halifax.

Migration Links Canada

Carol Prescott McCoy, Ph.D., "Finding Rogers Roots—The Ireland, Canada, Maine Connection"

See this presentation to learn about a case that illustrates how an extensive search led from Brewer, Maine in 1850 to an early Irish immigrant to Nova Scotia. Learn how to overcome false assumptions, use vital records, censuses, deeds, probate, court records, newspapers, cemetery records, and online resources to discover an ancestor's migration route and parentage.

Migration Links Canada

Kathryn Lake Hogan, "Canada and US Migration: Just Across the Border"

See this presentation to learn about what can be found in Canada-USA border entry records, the reasons your ancestor may have crossed the Canada-USA border, and why every family historian should be researching these records.

Migration to New York

Skip Duett, "Tracking Your New Englanders into Western New York"

See this presentation to learn about the Holland Land Company, which from 1803 to 1835 sold to the public a huge tract of land comprising most of Western New York. This vast trove of land records exists outside the usual county repositories. Learn how to find your New England ancestor on his westward migration in these records.