



Press Release

NGS Names Co-Managers of the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh

RICHMOND, VA, 20 JUNE 2023—Leslie Anderson, MSLS, and Kristi L. Sexton will serve as new co-managers of the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) when the National Genealogical Society (NGS) officially assumes management of GRIP on 1 October 2023. The institute is a leading provider of in-person and virtual genealogical education. Both Anderson and Sexton have long had a connection with GRIP.

Anderson, a recently retired reference librarian in the Local History/Special Collections Branch at Alexandria Library, in Alexandria, Virginia, has completed ten courses at GRIP. Over the years, she also has studied at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and the Genealogical Institute on Federal Records, Gen-Fed. She co-authored Alexandria and was project editor for the Virginia Slave Births Index, 1853-1865. She won the NGS Family History Writing Contest in 2013 and has written for NGS Quarterly, The Magazine of Virginia Genealogy, and VGS Newsletter. Anderson recently launched the blog 1st U.S. Colored Cavalry. She is the owner of Anderson Historic Research LLC and a member of several genealogical societies, including NGS. She received her Master of Science in Library Science from Case Western Reserve University.

Sexton is a professional genealogist, researcher, educator, and speaker. She, too, has taken many courses at GRIP and has been a tech host for its virtual courses for the past three years. She is past-president of Orange County California Genealogical Society and a former professor in the Family History Department at Brigham Young University-Idaho. An alumna of ProGen 42 (2020), Sexton holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University, and has completed numerous courses at Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research in Georgia, and Texas Institute of Genealogical Research. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), NGS, and many local and regional genealogical societies. She received her Master of Science in Auditing/Accounting from Texas A&M. She owns One Leaf Genealogy, LLC.

GRIP was founded by Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, and Deborah Lichtner Deal. Both will continue to serve as ambassadors and on the GRIP steering committee. Since 2011, the institute

has welcomed some 5,000 students in more than 170 courses. GRIP will be part of NGS's education department led by Education Director Angela McGhie, CG, FUGA.

"We are pleased to welcome Kristi and Leslie to our education team," said Matt Menashes, CAE, executive director of NGS. "They will be a powerhouse team and ensure that GRIP continues to advance student learning through exceptional courses that merge in-depth scholarly presentations with shared problem-solving."

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Founded in 1903, the [National Genealogical Society](#) inspires, connects, and leads the family history community by fostering collaboration and best practices in advocacy, education, preservation, and research. We enable people, cultures, and organizations to discover the past and create a lasting legacy. The Falls Church, Virginia, based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian.

Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, and Deborah Lichtner Deal began GRIP's formation in 2011, and the first institute was held in July 2012. Elissa is an experienced institute educator, and Debbie ran a week-long genealogical workshop week at the Ohio Genealogical Society Library. GRIP is typically held in person at LaRoche University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but expanded online during the pandemic. The 2023 institute is 18-23 June (virtual) and 9-14 July (LaRoche University).