

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



%Northland Public Library
300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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e-mail: pioneerbook@juno.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the past five years, I have been using one of our bedrooms for a home office. I kept all my "stuff" brought from work when I retired, plus my computer, printer, and all my genealogical "stuff" that I've accumulated over five years of searching the Family Tree in this room.

This past Christmas, in preparation for a visit from my Daughter, Son-in-Law and her two children, we decided to relocate the "office" downstairs and return the room to a bedroom. In my haste to evacuate the room, most everything got sort of scrambled.

It appears that my previous organization has been by stashing like materials in piles, or in large brown envelopes neatly stood upright on my bookshelf, in no particular order. Well, for the past month, I have been sorting, labeling and filing. It has been really boring, but, much as I have hated the mess that I have made, it has opened my eyes to the need to be organized in keeping my Family Tree records. I believe that it is essential if I ever want to put my finger on any of the information that I've taken so much effort to accumulate. Some of the documents such as original birth or baptism certificates are

irreplaceable, and deserve proper filing and storage.

So, if you're like me, with your precious records stored in piles of "stuff" or in big brown envelopes, I urge you to make a resolution to spend the next bad weather day and start your organization now. And yes, we're bound to have a few more bad weather days yet, after all, Punxsutawney Phil did see his shadow.

Sylvan

Next Meeting
March 20, 2001
Jean Morris

For Lands Sake! What You Always Wanted to
Know About Pennsylvania's Land Records

Jean will discuss land purchases from the Indians which opened settlement areas beginning with the formation of the Colony in 1681; the land application/warrant/survey/patent system and how it works; the East and West Side Surveys; land certificates given to PA Revolutionary soldiers; land records/deeds at the county level after that first purchase; what records are held in the Recorder of Deeds offices and a lot more.

WHERE GENEALOGIST'S MEET

Tues, March 6 - 7:30 pm - NHG Board Meeting -
North Hills Passavant Hospital cafeteria.
Everyone welcome.

Tues, March 20 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - Jean S. Morris - "For Lands Sake! What You Always Wanted to Know about Pennsylvania's Land Records." Jean, a professional genealogist since 1969, is editor of the WPGS Quarterly Magazine and a researcher for clients all over the country.

Thurs, Feb. 22 - 7:30 pm - Ben Avon Historical Society - Elissa Scalise Powell will speak on "Your Own Detective Story: The How & Why of Genealogy". Meeting at the Community United Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon, 7501 Church Avenue. Free and open to the public.

Sat. March 10 - 10:00 am - WPGS Meeting - Carnegie Lecture Hall - Elissa Powell will present her lecture on "Messages from the Grave: Listening to Your Ancestor's Tombstone." Note: If you plan to help proof the new NHG book you might want to attend.

Sat. March 31 - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm - Slippery Rock Heritage Association - 13th Annual Genealogy Workshop at Slippery Rock University. See separate write up.

Sat., April 7 - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm - The Allegheny City Society and the Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable - Civil War seminar for monument restoration - "April During the War, 1861-1865". Seminar fee \$40/person through March 15; \$45 after. Fee includes lunch. Deadline March 24. Mail check payable to Allegheny City Society, Civil War Seminar, P. O. Box 100255, Pittsburgh, PA 15233-0255. Location: The Babcock, 3382 Babcock Boulevard.

Sat. April 21 - WPGS Annual Spring Seminar - Radisson Hotel, Greentree - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer will speak on researching in the Pennsylvania Archives. Watch your *Jots* for a registration form or pick one up at the NHG meeting. Deadline April 13.

BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASS

Beginning genealogy class is now being formed at Community College of Allegheny County. Please note that the cost is the same for this class whether or not you are an Allegheny County resident.

WHO: Elissa Scalise Powell, CGRS

WHAT: a 5-week class covering how to begin searching for your family roots including a field trip to Carnegie Library to work on your research.

WHEN: Sundays, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm, starting February 16.

WHERE: CCAC North Campus

HOW MUCH: \$39 for 15 hours

REGISTER: Course YCA-007-1411 via phone (412)237-2670 or (724) 325-6626, by fax (with credit card and SSN) to (412) 237-6505 or by mail to Registration, CCAC, 8701 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 Walk in registrations can be taken. More questions? Call (412)359-3737.

GERMAN TRANSLATIONS

NHG has been contacted by Inge Horder who will do translations from German to English for a fee. If you are interested, contact her directly at (412) 821-0590. Note: NHG does not endorse this service but is providing the information as a service to our members.

Genealogy is like potato salad -- when you share it with others -- it's a picnic.

FRAUDULENT GENEALOGIES

Recently there have been numerous articles about the large number of fraudulent genealogies that have been published, both in books and on the Internet.

If you subscribe to any Internet mailing lists you may have received an e-mail recently from a group called "Family Discovery," a fee-based site.

Their e-mail describes their site as: "an on-line genealogy service giving you access to a comprehensive database of compiled genealogical information on the Internet." The information they say is on their site includes: immigration, census, land, church, courthouse, birth, death, marriage, and military records, wills, and published genealogies and family histories.

Shortly after receiving this e-mail I received another about this new site. You might find the following information interesting.

"Well, Family Discovery is back at it. These two kids from Cedar Rapids, Iowa are charging \$43 to \$49 for unlimited access to their website. The only problem is that their website is a conglomeration of OTHER PEOPLE'S research. They put all the links they can find on their site - even linking to other people's personal web pages. Further, most of their data "cells" are empty. The ones they do have are just links to other sites."

So, save your money and delete this e-mail. I tried to send them an e-mail, using their link for e-mail, telling them to remove my name from their list. Guess what - it came back as unknown!

This is just one example of fraudulent genealogies. *Family Chronicles Magazine*, January/February 2001 issue has an excellent article on this subject. It discusses in detail the work of the most famous creator of fraudulent genealogies - Gustave Anjou. He started his

"career" in 1890 in the US. Not only was he not a genealogist, he was also a forger of genealogical records. He would do a genealogy for a client (which took about 3 weeks!) for fees up to \$9,000. He is just one of several named in the article.

In an effort to help genealogists avoid the pitfalls of using these fraudulent genealogies, the First Families organization has established a section on their website with updates on fraudulent genealogies. You might want to check this out. Their link is: <http://www.linkline.com>.

VOGAN FAMILY BIBLE FOUND

In a remodeling cleanup at a church in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, the Vogan Family Bible was found. The huge Bible was published in 1892 and had only the inscription and birth pages filled out.

It was inscribed "To: Mrs. Thomas Vogan from Thomas Vogan, July 1899". On the birth page was:

Thomas Vogan 25 March 1867

Mrs. Lottie Vogan 4 Dec 1877

Ruth Vogan 5 July 1897

Ruth Vogan signed her name on the birth page in a childish scrawl. There are also other childish pencil marks through the other data pages. For more information contact Elissa Powell at (724) 935-6961.

North Hills Genealogists is a group of people who share an interest in genealogy and meet to share their knowledge. NHG does not maintain a library and does NOT do research for others. An individual member may choose to handle research requests, but NHG will not be responsible for the quality of the work performed or any fees charged.

THE STORY BEHIND THE NAMES OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

Reprinted from John M. Roberts' & Sons advertising in the
Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, late 1940's - early 1950's.

Submitted by Bernice Broniecki

GREENE COUNTY

Greene County was erected by an Act of February 9, 1796, the territory being taken from Washington County. It was named in honor of General Nathaniel Greene, whose ability as an officer was so much appreciated by General Washington. Greene Township had been erected in the southeastern section of Washington County in 1782, and so named when the General was at the height of his popularity, and the new county assumed the name of the township.

This region was originally settled by adventurers from Virginia and Maryland, while it was yet held by Indians. Many stirring events occurred here before the county was organized and, until 1775, it was supposed to be a part of Virginia, the inhabitants attending court and paying taxes in Morgantown, in present West Virginia.

The five original townships of the new county were part of *Springhill* Township while yet in Bedford County. *Waynesburg* was designated as the county seat, and laid out on October 28, 1796.

It was named in honor of Gen. Anthony Wayne, one of the bravest and ablest American generals, whose brilliant victory over the Indians at Fallen Timbers, made possible the settlement of that vast territory west of the Ohio River.

Carmichaels was incorporated from *Cumberland Township*, and first called *New Lisbon*. It was the birthplace of Albert W. Cummings, US Senator and Governor of Iowa. *Jefferson* was laid out in 1795, and named for that great President. *Clarksville*, *Greensboro*, *Mount Morris* and *Rice's Landing* were each named after the founders. *New Freeport* was so named after its location as a

port for river traffic. In 1923 *West Waynesburg* was consolidated with the county seat, *Waynesburg*. The latter was incorporated January 20, 1816.

Record Sources in Greene County

Information supplied by Gary Link and used with his permission. Check with the specific offices for any changes.

Clerk of Courts - Greene County Courthouse, High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370 (724) 852-5281

Birth & Death Records - 1893-1915; Cost \$0.50 per photocopy. No search fee.

Coroner's Inquests - 1920-1998; Cost \$0.50 per photocopy. No search fee

Criminal Cases - 1796-Present; Cost \$0.50 per photocopy. \$10 search fee if staff does search.

Marriage Records - 1885-Present; Cost \$0.50 per photocopy. No search fee.

Standard mail requests for all the above. Note that Clerk of Courts is also Clerk of Orphan's Court so estate and adoption records are there.

Prothonotary, same address (724) 852-5288

Civil Cases - 1797 - Present; Cost \$0.50 per photocopy. Staff does not do research. No mail requests.

Divorces - included in Civil Cases

Naturalizations - 1796-1906; Cost - photocopying not permitted. You must transcribe information. Staff does not do research.

Register of Wills/Recorder of Deeds - Same address (724) 852-5211

Deeds - 1796-Present; Cost \$0.50 per photocopy. Staff will search. Must provide name and township; other information helps.

Wills - 1796-Present; Cost: \$0.50 per photocopy. \$5 fee for staff search (includes one copy)

(continued on next page)

Tax Assessment Office - 93 East High Street,
Waynesburg, PA 15370 (724) 852-5211

Assessment Books - ca 1890s - Present; Cost \$0.35 per photocopy. Will respond to mail requests for only one name; must provide owner's name, year and location of property. Prefer you do your own research. Note: Start your research in the main office; non-current books are in a separate building.

Veterans' Affairs- 302 New County Office Building, Waynesburg, PA 15360 (724)852-5275

Veterans Burial Cards - ca Revolutionary War - Present. Staff will research their card list; no search fee. Staff has cemetery and library listings related to veteran burials that they allow visitors to search. You must go there to use.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month. In 1993 the Museum Programs Division of the Historical Society of Western PA produced a booklet entitled *Beyond Adversity, African-Americans' Struggle for Equality in Western Pennsylvania 1750-1990*.

The following chapter topics are included in this book: African-Americans Settle in Western Pennsylvania; The Fight to End Slavery; The Great Migration: African-Americans Move to Western Pennsylvania from the South in Search of Jobs and Better Living Conditions; With Liberty and Justice for All: African-Americans Rely on Self-Help and Community Action to Make Changes in their Communities; New Beginnings.

BOOK REVIEW

by Donna Booth

Most of us wish we had more time to work on our genealogy research. Unfortunately, things such as family responsibilities and work prevent us from spending as much time as we would like doing research. Because our time is limited, it is important that we make the best use of the time we have.

A new book, ***The Weekend Genealogist, Timesaving Techniques for Effective Research***, by Marcia Yannizz Melynck (c 2000, Betterway Books, 1507 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45207, ISBN 1-55870-546-5, \$18.99), contains many suggestions for using our time more effectively. The ten chapters cover the following topics.

Forms - discusses standard and customized forms; maps, logs. Sample forms are included that you can copy for your own use.

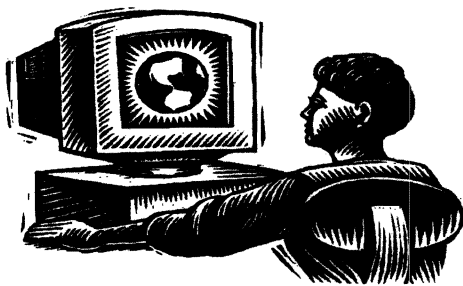
Controlling the Paper Pile - discusses different systems for different projects; various types of filing systems.

Gathering Information by Mail - discusses indexes, reference guides for correspondence, correspondence with relatives and research centers.

Computers and the Internet - gives surfing tips; how to cite sources from CDs and the Internet.

Squeezing Every Bit of Information from Records - lists steps to dissect a document; questions to ask about each document. "Doberman Approach - latch onto a fact and don't let it go until you've gotten everything out of it."

(continued on next page)



WEB WANDERINGS

(Note: All start with <http://www> unless otherwise noted)

Federation of East European Family History
Societies
<http://feefhs.org>

Genealogy and Heraldry in Slovenia
<http://genealogy.ijp.si>

How to do Croation Genealogy
<http://durham.net/facts/crogen>

East Europe GenWeb
rootsweb.com/~eaeurgw/

Eastern European Resources
www-personal.umich.edu/~cgaunt/eeurope.html

Note: There is a hyphen between www and personal

Lithuanian Terms for Document Translation
<http://lark.cc.ukrans.edu/~raistlin/genealogy/term.html>

State Archives of Latvia
archiv.org.lv/LVA/index2.html

Do you have a favorite website you use for research? Share it with the other members of the club. Send to the Editor at the address on the front or e-mail at DJBooth@worldnet.att.net.

Note: All the sites listed were checked as of February 10. Internet addresses frequently change or are discontinued. Every effort is made to provide only current sites.

Book Review - Continued from page 5

Research Facilities - covers the various types of facilities and how to prepare for your trip.

Research Trips - Making Every Minute Count - "10 Ways to Cut Your Library Stay"; what to take with you; obtaining information about resources at the facility; tips to keep you organized during your work at the facility.

Tapping Into the Knowledge of Others - talks about networking with other researchers; volunteering at facilities.

Research Etiquette - rules of etiquette when using research facilities both in person and by mail.

Ms. Melynk discusses the pros and cons of various research techniques. She also provides time saver tips, idea generators, case studies and money saving ideas. Throughout the book she stresses that "consistency is the key ingredient to maintaining organization."

This 134 page paperback book contains many helpful suggestions that are presented in an easy to read way. I know I found numerous ideas that I plan to make part of my research plan.

Ms. Melynk is also the author of the *Genealogy Handbook for New England Research, 4th Ed.* She has lectured on genealogy for nearly 10 years. She is the creator and instructor of the New England Historic Genealogical Society's "Genealogy 101" course and is president of the Italian Genealogy Society of America, Inc.

Whether you are just starting on your genealogy research or a long-time researcher, there is something in this book for you. Check your local bookstore or contact the publisher.

QUERIES

Compiled by Query Editor, Sylvan Kretz

FRY, Mercer Co., **BROWN**, Crawford Co.,
LOONEY, Venango Co., **LOCKE**, Allegheny Co.
Contact: *Phyllis Fry Locke, 825 6th Street,
Patterson Heights, Beaver Falls, PA
15010-3167, phlocks@bellatlantic.net*

WOESSNER/WÖSSNER/WESSNER/WESNER
(or other spellings) **MAURHOFF/MAUERHOFF**.
All dates/locations. Contact: *Paul Woessner,
103 Fairdale Court, Pittsburgh, PA
15237-2271.*

KEBART, VERAKIS, Cannonsburg, Washington
Co., PA (early 1900's), **DOBROSKY, DOZAN**,
Marguerite or Herbert, PA (early 1900's).
Contact: *Melanie DeBoer, 930 Summit Drive,
Wexford, PA 15090*

BUCCIGROSSI, DISANZA, COLAIZZI, RANALLO,
Pittsburgh and Bloomfield areas. Contact: *LTC
Richard Browning, USA Ret., 8436 Post Road,
Allison Park, PA 15101-5709 jorich7@AOL.com*

MCDONALD, EDGAR, PAUL, KANLIN, PORTER,
McROBERTS, GREENWALT, DAUGHTERMANN
Contact: *Pat Rivet, 320 E., W. Neshannock Ave.,
New Wilmington, PA 16142-1009.
luvabledingbat@excite.com*

Information on ancestors of **VICARY, Capt. Wm.**
(1771-10/02/1842), Freedom, PA m to **Mary**
GOSSLAR (12/1793 - 8/1850), **ROBINSON, Dr.**
Thomas Freeman (1812-1876), Freedom, PA m
to Anna M. **VICARY** (d 2/15/1926, Los Angeles,
CA). Contact: *John H. Wilson, 414 Golden
Grove Rd., Baden, PA 15005.*

SCHULTHEIS, William (b. 1840) m. to
Katherine AUBERGER (b. 1840 - Bavaria),
REICHLÉ, Gottlieb (b. 1865) m. to **Elizabeth**
SCHULTHEIS (b. 1874), **SHIELDS, William** m. to
Mary SCHULTHEIS (b. 1881) Allegheny City,

PA. Contact: *Sylvan Kretz, 991 Grandview
Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2250
swkretz@attglobal.net*

CORY, LITWILER, HOOD, GEHR, HUNTLEY and
HIGLEY, Crawford and Erie Co. 1700-1900.
Contact: *Billie M. Bowron, 7740 Niche Road,
Black Hawk, SD 57718-8015*

THE TIME TO GATHER FAMILY INFORMATION

Continued from the January issue
Submitted by Steph Valentine

Do you remember your first date? Describe the
circumstances.

How did you meet the person that you would later
marry? Describe them.

Do you remember where you went on the first
date with your spouse?

How long did you know them before you got
married? Describe your wedding proposal.

When and where did you get married? Describe
your wedding ceremony. Who was there?

Did you have a honeymoon? Where did you go?

How long have you been/were married? How
would you describe your spouse? What do/did
you admire most about them?

What advice would you give to a grandchild on
their wedding day?

Do you have a good friend that you have known
for the longest period of time? How many years
have you been friends?

continued next month

**SLIPPERY ROCK HERITAGE
ASSOCIATION 13th ANNUAL
GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP**

March 31, 2001

Leslie Smith Collier, nationally known for her interesting and informative lectures will be the featured speaker. She is a lecturer for the NGS, FGS and GENTECH. She will explain in an hour what you didn't understand after months or years of research.

Also available will be a photographer to copy your old photo from 9:00 am - noon (deposit required); LDS computer database search and various vendors.

Registration: \$28 (includes lunch) must be post-marked by March 22. After that date \$28 w/o lunch. Send check payable to: Slippery Rock Heritage Association - Genealogy Workshop, Box 511, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Please include a phone number.

Questions: contact Helen Staiger (724) 794-4627 or e-mail at geniespeak@aol.com

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Board officers for 2001-2002. If you would like to nominate someone or are interested in being a candidate yourself, please see either Sylvan Kretz or Tom Wiley. All nominees will be contacted to obtain their agreement to be candidates. Board offices are: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

Elections will be held in June, with the results announced in July. The new officers will assume their duties at the August, 2001 meeting.

BEGINNER'S CORNER

EVIDENCE - anything that pertains to or establishes the point or issue in question. It is the very medium by which facts are proven.

Types of Evidence

Direct Evidence - evidence (or information) which, standing alone, tends to show the existence of a fact. It is evidence that relates directly to a precise issue.

Circumstantial Evidence - also called indirect evidence; stands in contrast to direct evidence. It is evidence or information about facts and/or circumstances from which the existence (or non-existence) of a fact at issue may be inferred.

Primary Evidence - generally original or first-hand evidence. It is found in original documents (ex: wills, pension applications, deeds, tax receipts).

Secondary Evidence - evidence that is not primary. Covers a broad spectrum of things, from the very trustworthy to the highly questionable (ex: extracts of records, compilations of information gathered from all kinds of sources, and published sources)

Collateral Evidence - evidence that is an integral part of the source record in which it is found but has nothing to do with the reason the record exists.

Hearsay Evidence - any evidence that is outside the personal knowledge of the source that reports it.

FACTS - related to circumstances as they were, or to events as they actually took place; facts are absolute realities as distinguished from opinions, presumptions and suppositions.

MY FAMILY ISN'T FROM THERE

Most genealogists belong to at least one genealogical organization and often several. This may be a local group where they live, a regional one in an area where their ancestors lived; a national group such as NGS or even an international group from the homeland country of their ancestors.

These groups usually have meetings, either on a monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly basis, and often offer a yearly seminar. The international groups now even have "chat group" meetings on the Internet. At these meetings and seminars there are usually speakers with topics that range from those of a very specific nature (local history, etc.), to those dealing with genealogy in general, depending on the focus of the group.

How many times have you received a notice of a group's meeting and, after learning the topic of the program, said, "My family isn't from there. I'll skip that meeting."? But, are you absolutely, positively certain that none of your family came from there?

For years I always believed that all of my mother's family came from Germany and I thought I knew exactly where in Germany. Because of this belief I might have considered skipping meetings covering other areas of Europe.

I recently learned that the area where my maternal grandmother came from, while it was in Germany then, it is now in Poland. So, in order to look for records on her family, I have to know how to find those old records in Poland, not Germany. Based on my previous belief, I might have skipped any meetings regarding researching in Poland, and possibly missed out on some valuable information that would help me in my research.

Even if you do know that your family is not from a particular area, by skipping a meeting on that area, you might miss out on some other valuable information that could help you in your research.

Maybe it is just some general information on the history of a region that would help you later.

Several months ago I wrote an article about my success in finding information at AIS. Several weeks later I heard from another member who had not attended the meeting about AIS. He had felt that there wasn't a connection there for him. After reading my article, he thought that maybe he should check it out, because possibly there might be something there for him after all.

I guess the point I am trying to make is to think twice before deciding not to go to a meeting of any group you belong to because of the belief that the topic has no connection for you. You can learn something at every meeting - even those about areas where "my ancestors aren't from there." Use each meeting as a means to gain more information to apply to your research efforts.

SPRING FIELD TRIP WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NHG is planning its annual spring research trip to Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. WRHS has most of the census microfilm for most states, plus an extensive collection of local histories for many states and many family histories.

Watch for more information on this trip in future newsletters. Join your fellow NHG members for a day of research. Think about carpooling with a group of friends to join together in breaking down those "brick walls."

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

**C/O Northland Public Library
300 Cumberland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5014**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

91008 00-01
Elissa & Reed Powell
720 Highpoint Drive
Wexford, PA 15090-7571

FOR LANDS SAKE! WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PENNSYLVANIA'S LAND RECORDS

Jean S. Morris

March 20, 2001

UPCOMING NHG MEETINGS

April 27 - FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF
YOUR IRISH AND SCOTCH-IRISH ANCESTOR - Jim
Sterrett

May 15 - SLOVAK SETTLERS IN PENNSYLVANIA
- Micharl Kopanic, Commonwealth Speaker -
Pennsylvania Humanities Council

June 19 - ORAL HISTORY: A GIFT TO FUTURE
GENERATIONS - Jim Costello

July 17 - WERE YOUR ANCESTORS CITIZENS? A
LOOK AT NATURALIZATION - Leslie Dunn

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

E-MAIL MEETING NOTICES

How many times have you read about an upcoming NHG meeting and said to yourself, "I really want to get to that meeting" and then with the press of events, forget to mark it on your calendar?

Now you can receive an e-mail notification about upcoming NHG meetings and other genealogy events. This way you won't miss any of the great meetings that have been planned for this year. To sign up, send an e-mail request to:

pioneerbook@juno.com

Thanks to Gary Schlemmer for providing this service to NHG members.