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PRICE 5c

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BULLETIN

Registered by Australia
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563a Princes Highway,
Blakehurst 2221
September, 1985

Dear Friend and Member,

The September Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Friday evening, 20th September, 1985 at 8.00 p.m.

Place: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale

Business: General

Syllabus Item: An evening you should enjoy. Mr. Bowra will show his slides of India, China and Malaysia, these countries we know so little about. I hope you will find them interesting.

Supper Roster: Miss Dunsmore, Captain, together with Mesdames Mendoza, Loring and Miss Wilding.

Ladies Please Bring a Plate

Mr. A. Ellis,
President &
Research Officer
Phone: 587 1159

Mrs B. Perkins,
Publicity Officer

Phone: 587 9164

Mrs K. Hamey
Secretary

Phone: 546 3355

Mrs E. Wright,
Treasurer

Phone: 599 4884

Social Secretary
A VOLUNTEER PLEASE!!

Mrs E. Eardley
Asst. Secretary
& Bulletin
Editor

Miss D. Row, Asst. Treasurer

Puting off the easy thing makes it hard, putting off the hard thing makes it impossible.
George Horace Latimer

The indulgence of ease is fatal to excellence
Anon

A cheerio to our friends who are not so well. Our best wishes
to all for a speedy recovery.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The St. George Historical Society is pleased to announce that the
following books, Nos. 1 - 7, written and illustrated by the late
Gifford H. Eardley for the Society, have been reprinted and are
now available.   Books Nos. 8 and 9 have been compiled by
Mrs. Bronwyn Perkins.

No. 1.   "The Wolli Creek Valley" (Reprint now available)
No. 2.   "Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway"   ) Book Nos.
No. 3.   "Saywells Tramway - Rockdale to Lady Robinsons   ) 1 - 8
                                          Beach"   )
No. 4.   "Arncliffe to Bexley Tramway"   ) $2.50 ea.
No. 5.   "Our Heritage in Stone"   ) Plus
No. 6.   "All Stations to Como"   ) Postage
No. 7.   "Tempe and the Black Creek Valley"   )
No. 8.   "Early Churches of the St. George District"   )
No. 9.   "Early Settlers of the St. George District"   No. 9
         Price $4.00 plus postage   Vol. 1. $4.00
No.10.   "Early Settlers of the St. George District",
         will be available soon.   Vol. 2.

All books are available at our meeting, also members badges.

For your copy of the above books, please contact one of the
following:-

Miss B. Otton - Phone 59 4259 (after 8 p.m.)

Mrs. E. Eardley - Phone 59 8078

Mr. A. Ellis - Phone 587 1159

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NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

* * * * *

2NBC-FM 90.1 - Stereo - St.George Historical Society
Tuesday evenings 6.30p.m. - 6.45p.m.

Tape 123 - 3rd September - The Fitzgerald   - A. Ellis
                           Family
                           (Repeat by request)

Tape 124 - 10th September - The Kogarah to Sans - D. Sinclair
                            Souci Tramway.

Tape 125 - 17th September - The St. George   - D. Sinclair
                            Hospital.
                            (Repeat by request)

Tape 126 - 24th September - A Brief History of the - A. Ellis
                            Carss Family & of Carss
                            Bush Estate.
                            (Repeat by request).

Tape 127 - 1st October - Arthur Phillip - Prt 1 - M.D.Fleming
                         Destiny Calling - 1787.

Tape 128 - 8th October - Arthur Phillip - Prt 2 - M.D.Fleming
                         1787 - Work Starts.

Tape 129 - 15th October - Arthur Phillip - Prt 3 - M.D.Fleming
                          Surgeons Busy -
                          Explorations.

Tape 130 - 22nd October - Arthur Phillip - Prt 4 - M.D.Fleming
                          Explorations -
                          Bennelong & Colbee.

Tape 131 - 29th October - Arthur Phillip - Prt 5 - M.D.Fleming
                          1790 - his death
                          1814.

EXCERPTS FROM - OFFICIAL OPENING & DEDICATION
of
The Hurstville Presbyterian
War Memorial Church
on
Saturday 26th November 1955.

Church History Notes:

. Services first organised by Rev. Thomas Hill, M.A., of Bexley.

. August 1894, Hurstville separated from Bexley & made a sanctioned
  charge. 29 names on first Communion Roll.

. February 1895, Rev. Robert Kay, M.A., inducted as first Minister.

. May 1895, Service started at Oatley.

. 1897, Hurstville Church opened on Forest Road.

. November, 1910, Dumbleton (now Penshurst) Section made a Home
  Mission Parish.

. February, 1912, Hurstville Grove Hall opened on land given by Miss Smith.

. October, 1923 New Church Hall and Kindergarten Room opened on new
  site at corner MacMahon St. & Park Rd., after sale of old Church.
  New Manse on Patrick Street.

. November 1946, Memorial Carillon dedicated.

. September 1948, Pipe Organ dedicated.

. March 1953, House & land at 1-3 MacMahon St., bought.
  Patrick Street Manse sold.

. August, 1954, the tender of pounds 23,875 of George Martin Builders P/L.,
  accepted for Church on new site.

. 5th March, 1955, Foundation Stone laid by His Excellency Lieut.-General
  Sir John Northcott K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.

. 26th November, 1955, Church opened by His Excellency Lieut.-General
  Sir John Northcott, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.

. Church & Furnishings dedicated by the Moderator, The Rt. Rev. Dr.
  Cumming Thom, M.A., S.T.M., Ph.D., D.D.

. Memorials to the Fallen dedicated by the Senior Chaplain,
  The Rev. Hugh Cunningham.

Ministers of Hurstville:

1895 - 1907	The Rev. Robert Kay, M.A. (Deceased)
1907 - 1917	The Rev. F. Barclay (Deceased)
1917 - 1927	The Rev. R.E. Davies (Deceased)
1927 - 1933	The Rev. C.H.B.Douglas,B.A.
1933 - 1943	The Rev. E.A.Davies.
1943 - 1945	The Rev. J.T.H.Kerr, B.A.
1946 -	The Rev. R.G. Cruikshank.

Official Opening:

His Excellency was asked to:

1. Open the door of the Church & declare the Church open.
2. Unveil a Commemorative Plaque in the Narthex.
3. Sign the Book of Remembrance.
4. Open the Memorial Gates leading into the Church.

Service of Dedication:

The Moderator of PRESBYTERY:

> Peace be to this house & all who worship therein.
> Peace be to those that enter & to those that go out therefrom.
> Peace be to those that love it & that love the name of Jesus
> Christ our Lord.

The Minister: The Rt. Reverend the Moderator, we have received,
accepted & recorded the many beautiful & fitting
& costly gifts for the adornment of the sanctuary
& use in worship. On behalf of the Congregation
I would now invite you to dedicate the same.

Pulpit - Donated by Family of the late Rev.R.E.Davies, in
Memory of Rev. R.E.Davies, Minister of this Church
1917-1927.

Communion Table - Donated by Mr. McGuinness, in Memory of Mrs.
Constance McGuinness.

Baptismal Font - Donated by the Diment Family, In Memory of
Mrs. F. Diment.

Lectern -	Donated by the Diment Family, In Memory of Mr A Diment.
Hymn Board -	Donated by Mrs L Middleton, In Memory of Mr & Mrs. Wheeler.
Organ Console -	Donated by Dr.E.R.Figtree, In Memory of Mrs L.E.C.Figtree.
Pews -	Donated by -

Miss Moncrieff, In Memory of Wallace Moncrieff.

Mrs. Coull & Mrs Wilson, In Memory of Mrs. McLauchlan & Mr M Wilson.

Rev. & Mrs. R.G.Cruikshank, In Memory of Mr & Mrs. Cruikshank, & Mr & Mrs Reid.

Mr & Mrs O.J.Deas & Family, In Memory of Mr Kenneth Williams.

Mrs.E.R.Figtree, In Memory of Rev. John Patterson.

Football Club, In Memory of Mr. Tom Marsland.

Mr. Watt, Mr & Mrs Jordan, & Mr & Mrs Lawless, In Memory of Mrs Eva Watt.

Mr. W. Kerridge, In Memory of Mr & Mrs Kerridge.

Mrs. Middleton King, In Memory of Mr Phillip King.

The late Mrs F. Middleton, In Memory of Mr.H.A.Middleton.

Miss Macaulay, In Memory of Mr & Mrs. Macaulay.

Messrs A & P Paul, In Memory of Mr & Mrs Schloeffel.

Mr & Mrs Potter, In Memory of Graham Maxwell Potter.

Mr Don Robinson, In Memory of Mrs J.R.Robinson.

Mrs. W.J.Smith, In Memory of Mr.W.J.Smith.

Mrs. Welch & Miss Thomson, In Memory of Mrs.E.C.Thomson.

Mr A N Wennholm, In Memory of Mr.A.H.Wennholm.

Mr. W.E. Hancock, In Memory of Anthony L Hancock, & Minnie E Hancock.

Dr. A.C.Thomas (2) In Memory of Mrs A.C.Thomas.

Mr & Mrs H Orr, In Memory of Mr & Mrs. R. Orr.

Mrs. Whigham, In Memory of her Parents & Sister.

The Hewitt Family.

Mr. Hamilton, In Memory of Mrs. M Hamilton.

Family of the late Mr & Mrs R Massie, In Memory of Mr & Mrs. R Massie, Mr R.D.Massie, Mr. L.A.Massie.

Chairs:

Moderator's Chair	- Donated by Mr L.A.Middleton, In Memory of Mr & Mrs A.H.Middleton.
Session Clerk's & Visiting Minister's Chairs	- Donated by the McCoughtry Family, In Memory of Mrs M McCoughtry.
Elders' Chairs	- Donated by -

        Mrs. Holley, In Memory of Mr J Symes.

        Mrs. Bush In Memory of Mr W N Eckert.

        Mrs. Hewit, In Memory of Mr. R M. Hewit.

        Mrs. V.W.Coombes (2) In Memory of Mrs N Paterson.

        Mrs. A Reid, In Memory of Mrs. Charlotte Tate.

        Miss Ross.

        Mr & Mrs H.A.Massie, In Memory of Mr. R. Massie & Mr. R.D. Massie.

        Girls' Physical Culture Club.

        Men's League.

Pulpit Chair	- Donated by Mr Walter Brown.
Hymn Book Table & Press	- Donated by Miss R Elliott, In Memory of Francis & Sarah Elliott.
Hymn Book Table & Press	- Donated by Mrs. Laughton & Sunday School, In Memory of Mr. David Laughton.
Vestry Table Vase	- Donated by Mrs McCaw & Daughters, In Memory of Mr. A. McCaw.
Vestry Furniture & Carpet	- Donated by The Supper Club.
Choir Carpet	- Donated by The Supper Club.
Narthex Table	- Donated by The Supper Club.
Umbrella Stand	- Donated by the Cricket Club.
Umbrella Stand	- Donated by The Women's Guild.
Church Carpets	- Donated by The Kirk Club.
Flower Stands	- Donated by The Fellowship, & Mr & Mrs K Gilpin.
Cushions on Pews	- Donated by The Kirk Club.
Communion Table Vases.	- Donated by Mr & Mrs Mailler, In Memory of their Parents.
Communion Tablecloth.	- Donated by Mr & Mrs J.E.Breakwell
Collection Plates	- Donated by Miss Barbara Pumfrey.

Bronze Name Plates - Donated by Mrs. Bush; Mrs Murray; Mr H Barnett; & The Committee of Management.

Bridal Cushions - Donated by The Kirk Club.

Bible Markers - Donated by Miss Oatway.

Flower Vases - Donated by The Kirk Club.

Maple Screens - Donated by The Young Kirkers' Club; Mr S.R.Dornan; & Women's Guild.

Choir Room Table - Donated by The Church Choir.

Book of Remembrance - Donated by Dr E R Figtree - the Book; Donated by Mr G.Mollet - the Printing.

Flags - Donated by Mr. Mailler's Bible Class
  Union Jack (Bruce Christian, Ron Currie, Martin Dolan,
  Two Australian Don Harding, Graham Haywood, David Mailler,
    Flags Ken Thompson.)
  The Flag of St.
    Andrew

Halyards - Donated by Mr. W. Flower.

Cross of Iona & - Donated by Mr & Mrs Peter Smith, Jeanette Blamire,
Communion Table Elizabeth Brown, Elaine Durie, Shirley Krinks,
Runner Wanda Smith, Jan Turner, Faye Williams, Gwenda
Williams, Sue Younger, Lloyd Beard, Adrian Bradley,
Mark Dickson, Ian Figtree, Malcolm Johns, Graham
Jones, John Packham, Don Robinson, Graham Smith,
Gavin Turnbull.

Dedication of Gifts in Memory of the Fallen:

Honour Roll: Members of this Congregation who made the Supreme Sacrifice.

World War 1	World War II
C.S.Allerdice	S.B.Blacket
W.Brooks	J.D.Blackshaw
L.V.Coote	R.Browning
E.S.Cunningham	J.Clark
G.Dalzell	F.J.Ellery,Sen.
C.C.Fripp	F.J.Ellery, Jun.
W.R.B.Johnson	J.N.Hanigan
F.A.Kirton	M.J.Kerrigan
W.Hewit	R.J.Perry
M.P.McCall	F.H.Rossiter
N.McMurtrie	J.Thompson
W.Millikin	F.Weaver
P.C.White	

The Minister: Senior Chaplain of the Forces, we have received, accepted & recorded the many very beautiful, costly & love-inspired gifts in memory of brave men who gave their all in Freedom's Cause & for the Christian Way of Life.

It is this Congregation's request that you
dedicate the same.

Memorial Screen & Gates	- Donated by - Hurstville R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. The Kirk Club Mr & Mrs G Martin Mr. Crawley Dr Figtree Dr Thomas Girls' Physical Culture Club.
Park Rd. Window	- Donated by Mr & Mrs A J Perry, In Memory of their son, Ronald J Perry.
McMahon St. Window	- Donated by his Relatives, In Memory of Selwyn B Blacket.
Pews	- In Memory of the Congregation who fell in World Wars 1 & II. Donated by - Mr & Mrs A L Blackshaw, In Memory of their son, John D. Blackshaw. Mrs. M Clark, In Memory of her son, James Clark. Mr & Mrs Don Watson, In Memory of their son, Tom Watson. Women's Guild; Mr & Mrs G.Martin; Mr & Mrs H Piper; Mr Isaacs; Mr & Mrs T Brabham; Mrs Castelow; Mr & Mrs Chapman; Mrs Cummins; Mrs Gettens; The Hurstville Methodist Church; The Hurstville Scottish Society; Mr & Mrs W Osmond; Girls' Physical Culture Club; Mr & Mrs W.E.Smith; Mr & Mrs G. Geddes.
Additional Stained Glass Windows	- Donated by Mrs L.E.Wennholm (In Memory of Mr.A.H. Wennholm) and Mr W Hancock (In Memory of his Mother), are being made and will be dedicated early next year.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF CAMPBELLTOWN. N.S.W.

- Gifford Eardley.

The discovery and settlement of the district of Airds, of which
Campbelltown eventually became the centre, dates back to the
earliest days of the colony of New South Wales. The area was
somewhat roughly described as the Cow-pastures owing to the
finding, in 1794, of a large herd of cattle, the descendants of
the few beasts that had escaped from their grazing enclosure at
Sydney, way back in the times of the first settlement. This
beautiful pasturage gradually became settled and Governor Macquarie
named the district Airds "in honour of my dear wife's family estate".
The Governor, with his usual modesty, decided to name the incipient
township "Campbelltown", because his beloved wife belonged to the
Scottish Clan of Campbell. The growth of Campbelltown commenced
from about 1820 and its spiritual welfare was catered for by the
erection of St. Peter's Church of England which opened for public
worship in June 1823.

Governor Macquarie encouraged the development of the Airds district
in every way and gave free grants of land, provisions, farming
equipment, and of course, large numbers of convicts to clear the
properties and sow, tend and reap the crops. Wheat was formerly
the chief planting and this large area of land quickly became the
granary of the state. The vast expanse of grassland, now devoted
to grazing, was once under wheat, maize, barley and oats.

The farm produce was taken to Sydney by horse and bullock teams over
rough unmade tracks that wound through the forest country and carefully
avoided all natural obstacles wherever it was possible to doso. The
Great South Road, plotted and surveyed by Sir Thomas Mitchell, under
the parsiminous eye of Governor Darling, passed through Campbelltown
and as Picton, Berrima and places further south were settled, Campbelltown
became important as a coaching depot where passengers stayed overnight
on their first day's journey out from Sydney Town. The coaching inns,
like their English counterparts, gave shelter to man and beast, and were
mostly built in the Georgian style of architecture. Excellent examples
of this style of building still survive in Campbelltown and should be
jealously guarded against the inroads of decay and town-planning
enthusiasts. The very names of the ancient hostelries are redolent of
their English contempories, names such as the Royal, Forbes, Jolly Miller,
Sportsman's Arms, Club, Railway, St. Patrick's Inn and the fascinatingly
titled Good Intent, to quote a few that come to hand. Unfortunately,
little appears to be known as to the exact location of a number of these
old inns and even to-day places are pointed out that were formerly
hotels, but no information can be obtained about their ancestry. This
is a subject that well deserves the attention of the Campbelltown
Historical Society.

A regular service of horse-drawn coaches plied between Holme's Hotel at Campbelltown and the White Hart Hotel in Sydney, with a journey time of seven to eight hours subject to the condition of the roads and also the horses. Bushrangers along the highway were not unknown and detachments of soldiers were posted at Liverpool and Campbelltown in an attempt to keep their activities in check. The bushrangers, generally escaped convicts, hung about the roads and fringes of the settlements, purloining whatever came their way, and leading a hand-to-mouth existence. They were hunted like dogs and usually finished up on the gallows, a ghastly public exhibition of the rough and ready process of law administration of the day.

The journeyings of James Backhouse, the Quaker missionary, to Campbelltown in 1834 makes interesting reading and gives a good insifht into the condition of the settlement. In the course of a letter he stated:-

> "Campbelltown consists of an episcopal worship-house
> of brick with a steeple, and a papal one of stone
> without a tower, and scattered houses on both sides
> of the road; some of them are brick, but most of them
> of wood; a large proportion are public houses. The
> cuntry is more extensively fenced, cleared, cultivated
> and settled than any other part of the colony we visited.
> There are, however, few respectable settlers; most of
> them are low Irish. We felt but little liberty in
> distributing tracts amongst the benighted people."

It has been related that the so-called low Irish filled the gentleman's breeches and socks with mustard powder whilst he slept, which afforded him grave discomfort when walking through the heat to Appin on the following day.

The erection of a fine windmill was completed at Mount Gilead, near Menangle, about 1836 by Thomas Rose. This gentleman arrived in New South Wales in 1798 and commenced business as a baker in Oxford Street, Sydney. In the course of time he became Mine Host of the "Rose and Crown" at the corner of King and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney. Prior to 1825, he purchased the Mount Gilead Estate from Ruben Uther, and eventually became a flour miller, grinding the locally grown grain for sale in Sydney and nearby townships.

Rose's mill, a four storied round stone tower graced with four huge wooden sail frames and surmounted by an exceedingly graceful curved cap, a distinguishing feature of this type of mill, was regarded as being the finest in the colony, a reputation also shared by the circular mill stones. The large wind shaft and the various wheels and pinion shafts were all fashioned of hardwood and it is believed that very little iron entered into the construction of the mill

equipment, practically all joining together of the various parts was accomplished by wooden dowels. Convict labour was employed on its construction and the sandstone blocks needed for the tower and the necessary hardwood was obtained from the Mount Gilead property.

Mention has been made of a water mill being erected at Campbelltown, but unfortunately no trace of its whereabouts or any definite details of its structure is found. In the 1840's a steam flour mill, housed in a three storied stone building, was erected on the bank of Bow Bowing Creek adjacent to the spot where the Sydney Road crossed that stream. A small boiler supplied steam to the engines and a well designed tall chimney of red brick carried the smoke away from the furnace.

The coming of the railway was an event of major importance to Campbelltown, which for a brief period became the rail head where passengers changed into horse coaches for places farther south. The railway from Sydney was opened on 17th May, 1857 with four passenger trains per day. There were no intermediate platforms on the single line extension from Liverpool and the contractor, Mr William Randle, employed a small tender engine, named Governor General, in the construction of the track. No less than fifteen, and some say seventeen, hotels catered for the terminal traffic. The busy township thronged with teamsters and their heavy wagons and the passenger coaches that plied southwards, westwards to Camden, and eastwards to Wollongong and the South Coast townships.

On the extension of the railhead to Picton, the prosperity of Campbelltown's extensive road trade began to wane, but perhaps the greatest calamity that befell the district was the Red Rust which attacked the wheat fields to such an extent that the crops had to be abandoned and the land used for growing hay and the grazing of stock. Many farmers sold out and left the district to commence afresh on the western slopes of the Main Dividing Range where the climate was more suited for the growth of wheat. By 1870 the several flour mills in the Campbelltown area had ceased to operate and were left derelict. Portions of the sail arms at Mount Gilead were more or less intact as late as 1916, but it is understood that the internal mechanism has been removed and the stone tower converted into a silo. The steam mill at Bow Bowing Creek also fell on evil days and its gear dismantled. About 1930 the old millstones lay inside the main doorway, but have since vanished. A portion of the steam boiler is laying embedded in the mud of a small billabong immediately at the rear of the mill.

The next item of importance which occured in the annals of Campbelltown was the opening of the branch trainway to Camden, in March 1882. The tramway was at first operated by steam motors brought down from the Sydney steam tramway system. In 1884, the Government imported two

small tank engines from England to handle the Camden traffic
and on their arrival the tram motors were returned to Sydney.
The present "E" or "20" class tank engines were introduced on
the Camden line in 1901 and handled a limited load over the
steepest adhesion railway section in Australia.

Perhaps the saddest blow to Campbelltown, was the construction
of a concrete roadway, designated the Hume Highway, that branched
off the old South Road at the Cross Roads Hotel and ran via
Narellan and Camden, direct to Picton over the hazardous Razor Back
Range. Why the easier route to Piction via Campbelltown, was not
retained as the main highway, is a secret only known to certain
members of the Main Roads Board. Still in spite of being out on
a limb, Campbelltown is more than holding its own and remains the
centre of a large agricultural district. A housing settlement is
projected and steps are being taken to bring a certain amount of
light industry to the immediate vicinity.

There are many towns in New South Wales, but few have the undefinable
atmosphere which belongs to old Campbelltown, a township which has
many modern aspects but still retains interesting and really
beautiful relics of the historic past. The town is one of the few
that can claim to be a "Macquarie Town", a claim that is gaining
wide notice as the now motorised public drive about the country side
at will and the contemplation of ancient buildings and their
associations, is gaining in popularity. Unfortunately, little
information is readily obtainable about the individual buildings
which form the township itself, some of which are in excellent
preservation, but others, alas, have been allowed to fall into decay.
There is a tendency in certain quarters to decry the out-of-date
appearance of some early buildings in Sydney Street, but this
criticism, unthinking criticism to me, should be directed to the
neglected state of the structures in question and a move made for
their restoration in the colourings and designs to which they were
first built. If, on the other hand, they are ruthlessly demolished
and replaced by the chrome-plated ugliness of modern construction,
purely functional monstrosities, the atmosphere of Campbelltown
will depart and it will become just another, shall we say, shopping
centre, devoid of all interest apart from its general handiness as
a locality where one can purchase the necessities of life.

From a tourist point of view, the town has definite attractions
which should be encouraged to their fullest, as it will bring
unfailing prosperity to the townspeople and shop keepers.

The exteriors at least, of the old buildings which grace the town
should be retained. No one will decry modern interior fittings,
furnishing and particularly plumbing. In certain types of business
the old world atmosphere can be fully exploited with good profit
to the owners, providing it is done discreetly with due understanding
of what is fitting blend of the past with modern everyday requirements.

English and continental counterparts of Campbelltown keep a very
watchful eye on their old historic buildings and realise their
value as a tourist attraction. Something to come and admire,
something that other towns do not possess, a tradition that
Campbelltown possesses in good measure and worthy to be looked upon.