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MEETINGS: Held at Cressy Fields, Alfreton, on the last Friday of each month (except July and August) at 7.30 p.m. Speaker to begin at 7.45 to allow time for returning magazines.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Become payable on joining the Society and thereafter annually on JANUARY 1st

<u>SUBSCRIPTION RATES</u>	INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	£3.00
	FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	£4.50 (one magazine to one address)
	STUDENTS, RETIREMENT PENSIONERS and DISABLED PERSONS	£2.00
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London - £4.00; If you wish Branch News to be sent by Air Mail please add £1.00 extra. If sent in Dollars or other currency please add £1.00 equivalent to your above specified amount, for currency exchange charge.

All cheques and postal orders to be made payable to: Derbyshire Family History Society.

QUERIES: Members may place a query under HELP WANTED free of charge.

ADVERTISEMENTS: Members and non-members may place an advertisement in Branch News at the rate of 50p. per line (85 characters per line). Frame 50p. extra.

COVER PICTURE: The village of Cromford lies in the Derwent valley and is surrounded by fine rocky scenery. It was here that Sir Richard Arkwright built the first water-powered cotton mill in Derbyshire in 1771, and built the village to house his workpeople. Some of the mill still remains. Willersly castle the home of the Arkwrights, and the church of St. Mary, close by, were begun by Sir Richard, but completed by his son. The church contains memorial of the Arkwrights and the castle is now a Methodist Guest House.

Near the mill is the canal wharf, open to the public and an alighting and loading place for the pleasure barge, the Sir John Gray, taking sightseers further down the canal to see the restored Leawood pump house, or to walk the High Peak Trail, once the course of the High Peak Railway. Cromford was a chapelry of Wirksworth - see cover picture "Branch News"

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE will be moving to new premises early this year; the address will be Doncaster Archives Dept. King Edward Rd. Balby, Doncast DN4 0NA. Check by telephone before writing or visiting (0302-873456). A new Guide is now available and an update of material will be sent to all purchasers each year. (Price 75p. plus 50p. by post)

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EDITORIAL

In this issue of "Branch News" we include the reports on our Projects and when you turn to those pages I'm sure you will feel that 1981 was a very busy year. I will not elaborate further as Joan and Heather have said it all for me, but I would like to add my own thanks for the help we have received. "Branch News" n.19 contained an article on coal mining and in this issue we print the memorial to those who died as a result of the Clay Cross pit explosion in 1882, contributed by Pauline and Malcolm Marples, telling of the dangerous conditions under which our coal-mining ancestors worked. These hazardous conditions will be seen in the film "Nine Centuries of Coal-Mining" at our March meeting.

I would like to thank members and friends who keep material for "Branch News" rolling in. Owing to the large number of new members and the long projects report, some articles have had to be put aside for a future issue, which is all to the good. We include in this issue the list of magazines we receive from other Societies. New Societies are being formed all the time and we welcome as an associate member of the Federation, the Highland F.H.S. (Sec. David Evans, 53 Ballifeary, Inverness, Scotland.) We can supply addresses for all other member Societies.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the untimely death of Daphne Whitlam who had been an active member of the Society. Our sympathy goes to husband Peter and their two young children. A donation from the Society in memory of Daphne has been sent to the Church Missionary Society, and anyone wishing to make an individual donation is requested to send direct to the C.M.S with which Daphne was closely connected, Address: 157 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UU.

W.E.W.

A.G.M. The following three long serving Committee Members have advised that they do not seek re-election at the A.G.M. - Mary Johnson who has been Secretary since formation of the Society, Fred Hall who has, over the years, been Treasurer, Interests Co-ordinator and Overseas Membership Secretary. Joan Smedley who has been Minutes Secretary and is now Projects Organiser. The first two named feel that as they are both well into their seventies the time has come to hand over to a younger person, whilst Joan has been obliged to curtail her activities due to indifferent health.

Written nominations are invited for three replacement Committee Members. In view of the fact that a new Secretary, Overseas Membership Secretary and Projects Organiser will be elected at a Committee Meeting following the A.G.M. it is requested that after 30th April and until replacement officers are notified in the June magazine, all correspondence for these officers should be sent to your Correspondence Secretaries.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- 26th March: Mr. R. Storer with the N.C.B. film "Nine Centuries of Coal-mining".
- 30th April: A.G.M. and Exhibition. Please bring along any old family photographs, Family Bibles, copies of Wills etc to display.
- 28th May: Mr. Sowter on "One Name Studies". Mr. Sowter had to cancel this in October.
- 25th June: Mr. D. Fowkes, of Staffs Record Office and formerly of Matlock Record Office. Title: "Enclosure and tithe maps and awards".

THE BOOK STALL

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