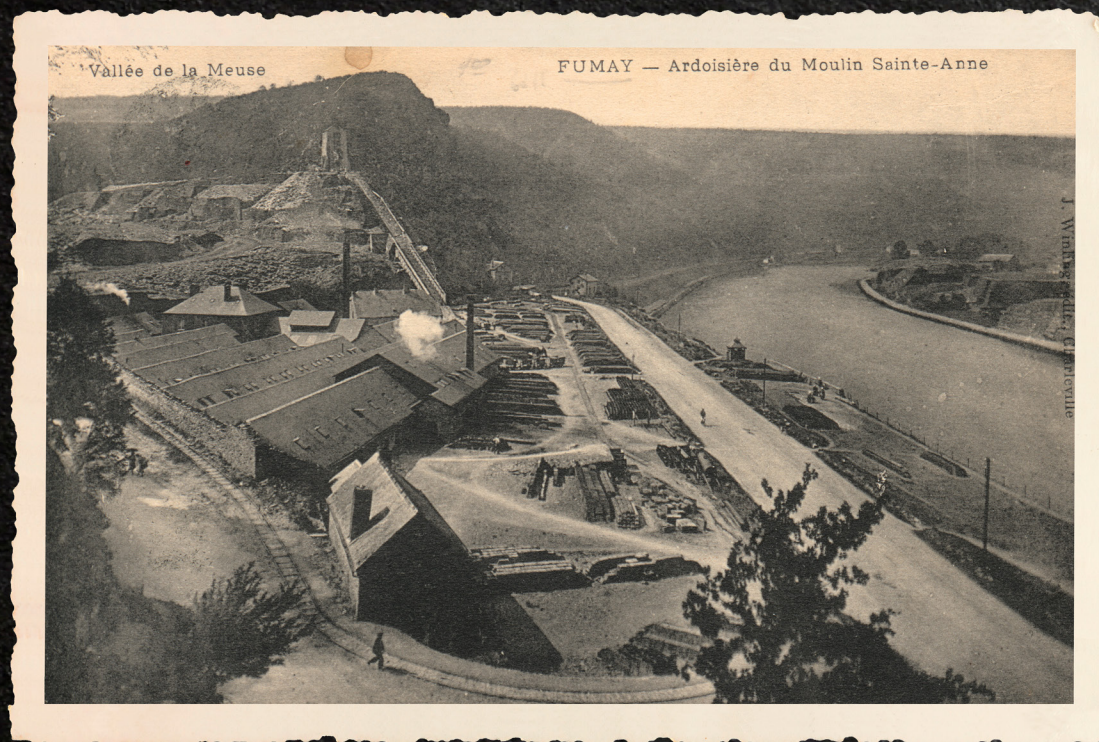


# n°11 The Moulin Sainte Anne slate mine

This slate mine was developed at the point where the Alyse meets the River Meuse. The valley floor is littered with waste from slate production, reflecting the volumes of slate quarried from the subsoil. The stream itself is channelled to meander some fifteen metres beneath the current petrol station, built on the site of workshops and yards where the slate was stored ready for shipment. To bring the waste even higher up, a head frame was built in the last years of the 19th century. This “*verdau*”, the local name for a slag heap, the pile of waste material from mine, which was widely re-used in the 1970s and 80s, has spread right up to the edge of the departmental road that leads from Fumay to Oignies.

The oldest traces of slate mining can be found here, dating back to the 12th century, when it was entrusted to religious communities. The underground workings, which run up against the Belgian border, plunge under a large part of Fumay to a depth of around 250 metres.

As well as being one of the oldest sites in the village, its headquarters were located in the former château of the Comtes de Bryas, which the company bought in 1837. It remained its owner until its complete dissolution in 1946. The building is now owned by the village council.



Overview in 1900



The workshop managers strike a pose



The old construction sites, seen from the Chevalement