

n°14 The "old" Folemprise slate mine

Below this path are the remains of the so-called "old" *Folemprise* slate mine, one of the oldest in Haybes, as it is mentioned in documents dating from the end of the 16th century.

The name *Folemprise* (sometimes spelt *Follemprise* or *Floremprise*) comes from the corruption of the old French term "*Fol-entreprise*", the adjective "*fol*" being an old, literary form of "fou" (crazy), which in this case denoted the absurdity or difficulty of looking for slate on this site.

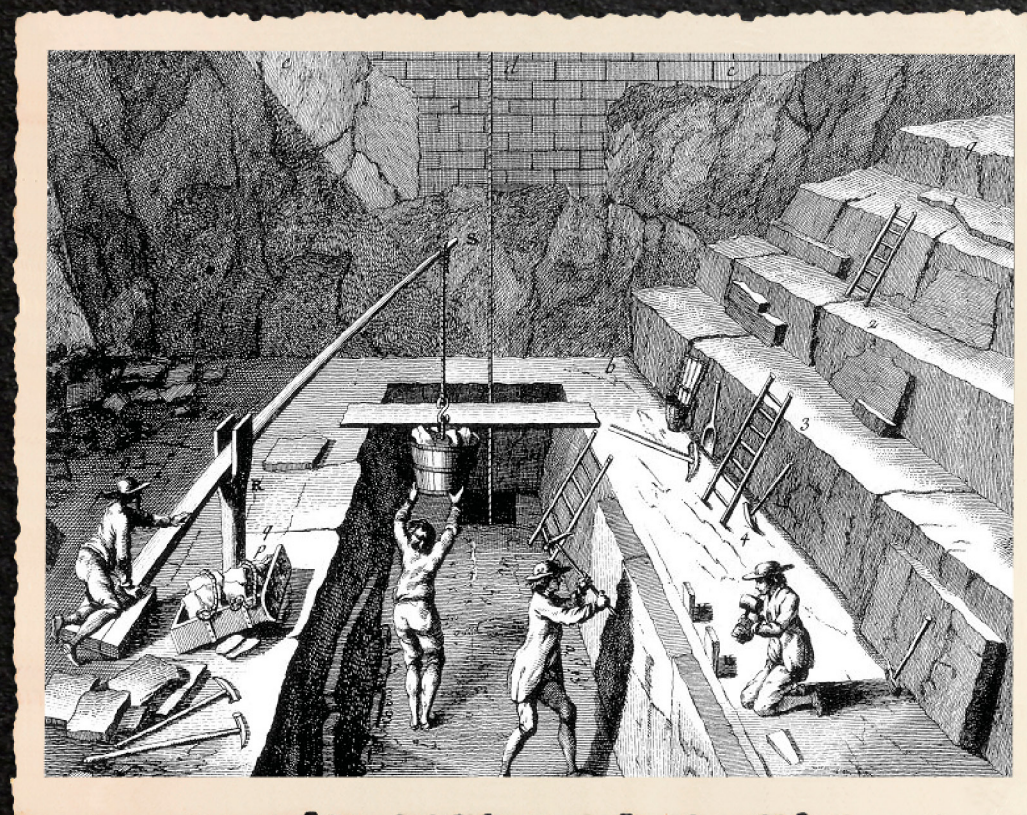
However, the mine was known locally as the *Trou des 17* (Hole of the 17) or *Ardoisière des 17* (Slate mine of the 17) because, according to legend, 17 slate mine workers died here when one of the galleries collapsed, trapping them in the tunnel, and were never freed.

To date, no documents relating to this tragedy have come to light. At the time, this slate mine (like others on Aurains hill) was located on the property of the Count of Maldeghem, the then Lord of Haybes, and few of his private archives have survived.

But was this tragedy the reason why the slate mine was abandoned and moved a few hundred metres away under the name of the "new" *Folemprise*? This hypothesis is plausible, unless the mine was moved simply due to the depletion of the shale seam at this point...



The old Folemprise, remains of an entrance or ventilation shaft



The Bottom of de slate mine
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Extract from the site plan of the slate mine the Folemprise and the Charnoy
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