

# n°7 The Bacara slate mine

The first viable mining projects were rolled out on the *Bacara* site in the early 1880s, after initial explorations in the last quarter of the 18th century. The first of these projects took the form of a cooperative society, which quickly assigned its rights in early 1883 to the founders of the *Société Anonyme des ardoisières de Bacara*.

Although preparatory work had been carried out, the nature of the subsoil meant that the operator had to invest heavily to access rich deposits. After boring a new inclined gallery, in 1892, the company started negotiating the extension of the concession on land that was also coveted by other local companies. Economic straits forced these competitors to cease trading, paving the way for the *Société de Bacara* to expand and, in 1898, to open a second extraction site. However, several new fundraising efforts were necessary to bring the project to fruition and keep it running, weakening the company's economic stability. It declared bankruptcy in 1908, before being resurrected in a new form in 1910. The company ceased trading for good in 1931



© Jean-Marie Goffin

One of the two slate mine descents

Tilting plate for switching the wagons



New construction projects at the slate mine



The remains of "Bacara"

Conception - Fabrication ad production