

Jane Marchand

Lime quarrying and burning.

Quarrying of limestone in Meldon begins in the 18th century, and it actually coincides with the agricultural improvements that were going on at that time, when it became very important to manure your land. Meldon lime was apparently particularly high quality and particularly sought after, so this is why these quarries came into being; so the quarried lime would be taken to one of the two surviving lime kilns that we've actually got in this area, and the burning method was in the lime kilns. They would put in layers of limestone and then on top of that they would put a layer of charcoal and then another layer of limestone, and they'd light it from the bottom, through the fire grates which you can still see, and they'd burn it at a high temperature, and the burn could take three days, and then they'd allow it to cool and then they'd come and cart it away.