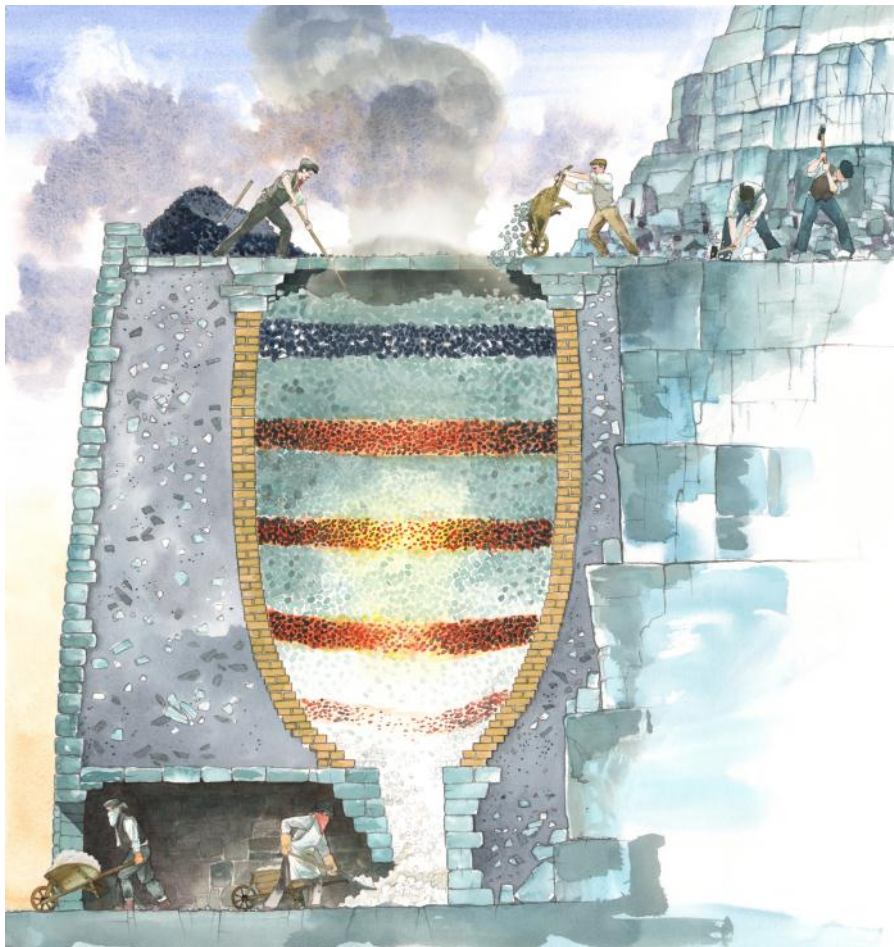


Quarrymen



The kilns at the Black Mountain quarries were built, filled and maintained by quarrymen. Most quarrymen were farmers who rented land on the Black Mountain to build kilns and burn limestone. They needed the quicklime that was created for their own fields.

Quarrymen would stay at the quarry all week long, living in small huts at the top of the kilns. They brought food with them and if they ran out would have to catch rabbits to eat or go hungry.

Filling and emptying the kilns was hot and dangerous work. Fumes from the burning of limestone and coal made breathing difficult and the quicklime produced could burn the skin and hurt the eyes.

It was also physically demanding work, using pickaxes and shovels to load carts with limestone all day long.

Blasting the rock quarry faces was also dangerous with reports of accidents being a regular occurrence.

