

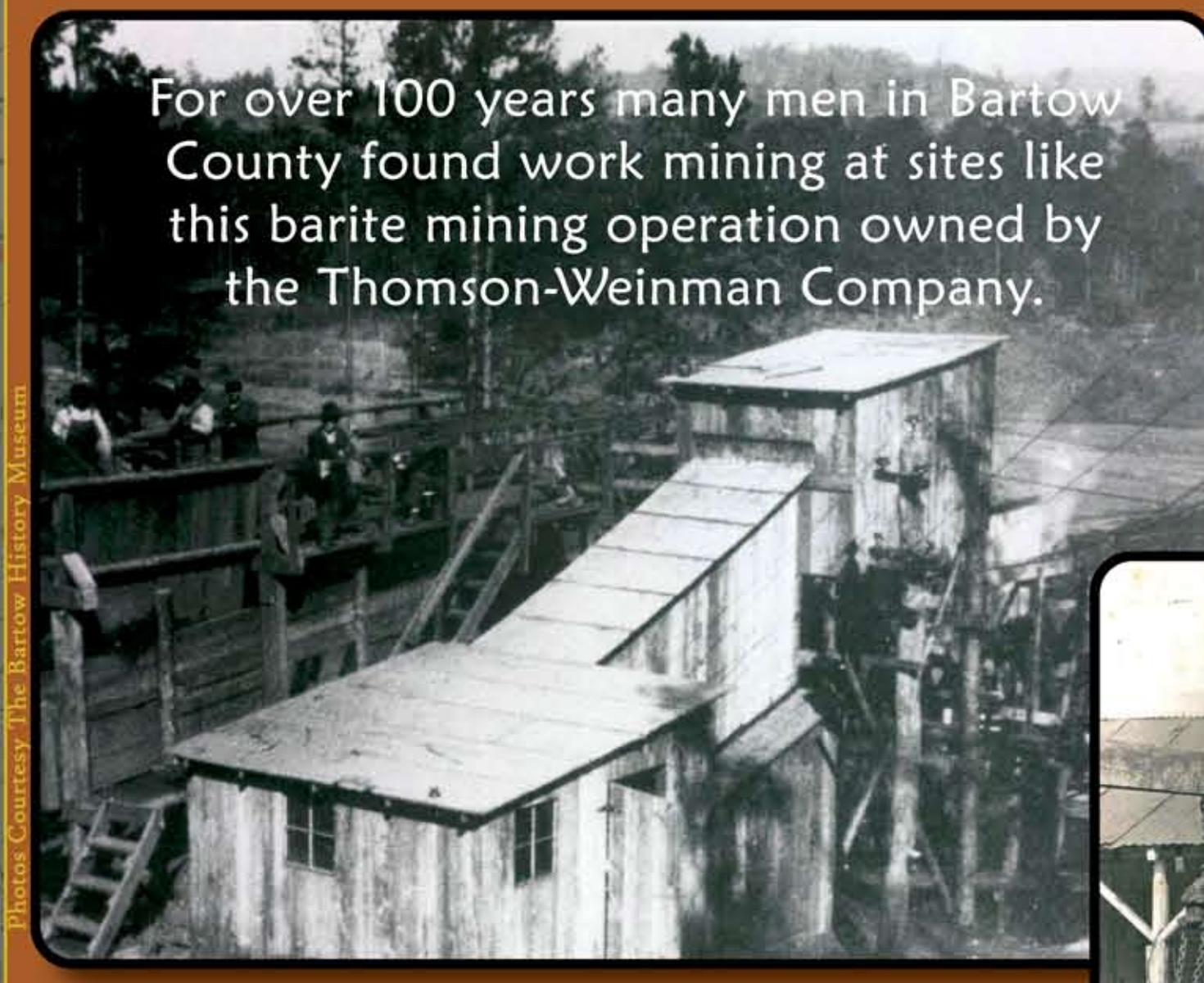
FROM THE EARTH

THROUGHOUT history humans have valued and been attracted to minerals like gold and iron.

Long before big companies were mining in Bartow County, the American Indians at the Leake Site were collecting and using different minerals. American Indians valued minerals like copper, quartz, graphite, and lead. Some minerals were used as tools and others were made into objects, some of which were traded.

In the 1800s, mining in Bartow County became big business. Mining expanded the population and changed the land by creating jobs, railroads, and even towns. Unfortunately, American Indians were often forced from their land when desirable minerals were found on it.

Over time a full-blown industry arose with the purpose of gathering, processing, and selling Bartow County's minerals worldwide.

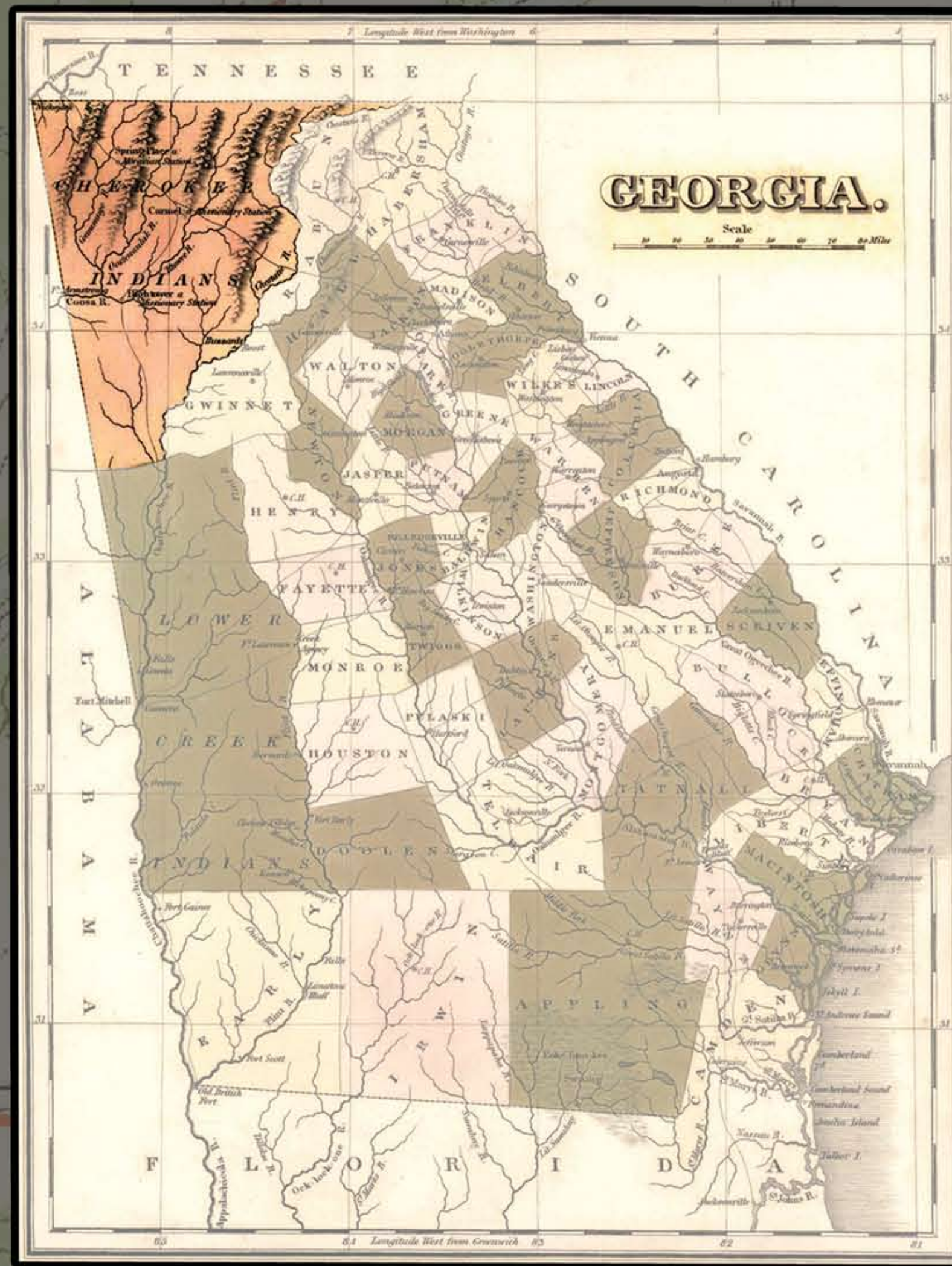


For over 100 years many men in Bartow County found work mining at sites like this barite mining operation owned by the Thomson-Weinman Company.

The search for minerals has had a lasting impact on Bartow County. American Indians were the first to appreciate this area's mineral resources and later generations continued the search but for different minerals and using different tools.




This mining crew worked to repair steam-powered mining equipment, which replaced picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows.



With the discovery of gold in northwest Georgia, white settlers forced the American Indians off their land and divided the "Cherokee Indian" land into counties.

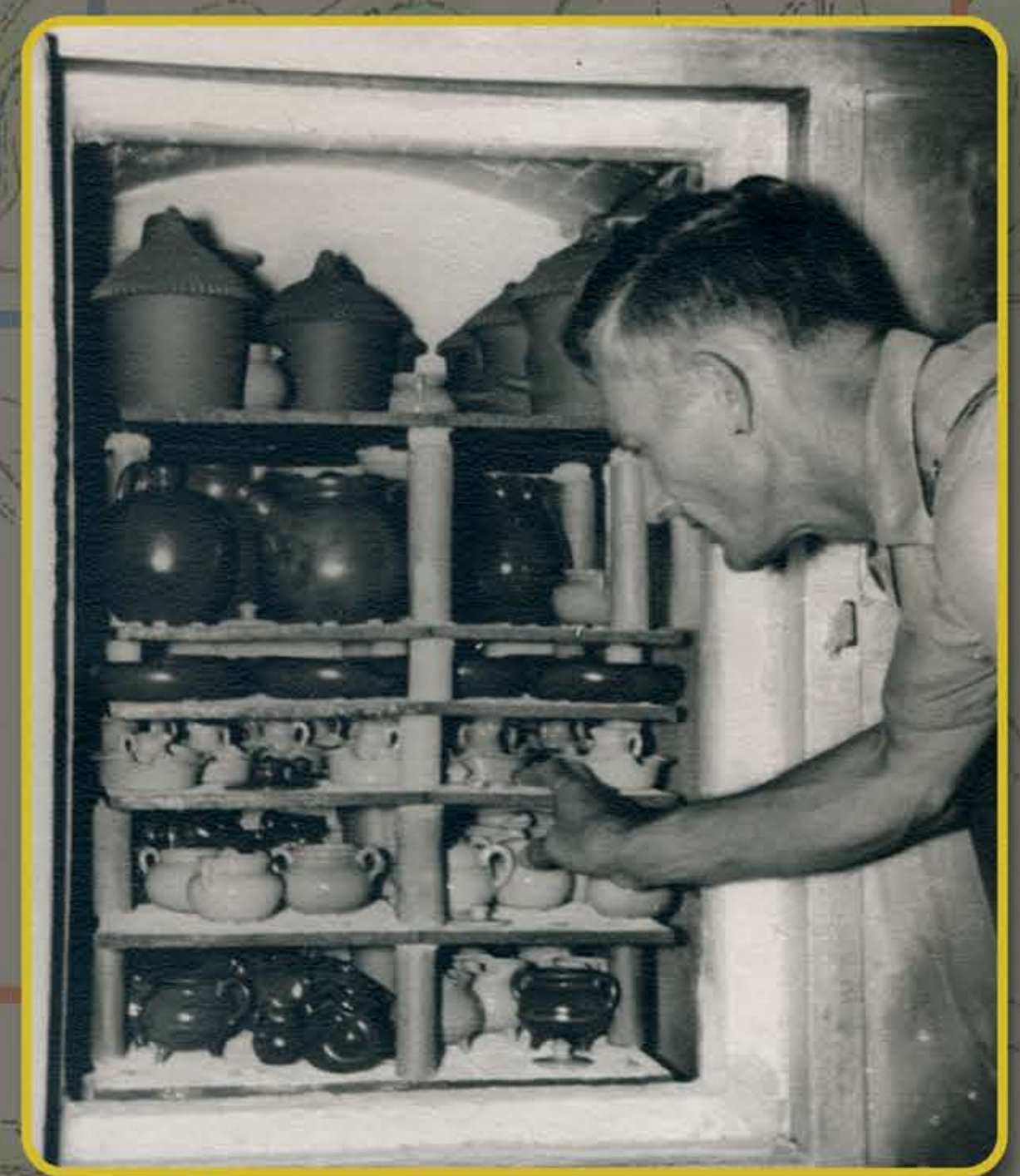
A Town No More...

In the mid-1800s a town called Etowah, located not far from the Leake Site, grew up around the iron mining operations. Similar to the American Indians, the citizens of Etowah were attracted by the area's minerals.



Cooper's Furnace

The town of Etowah was destroyed during the Civil War and in the 1950s was covered up by Lake Allatoona. Cooper's Furnace, pictured above, is all that remains of Etowah. You can still see this iron furnace near the Allatoona Dam.



Clay was another important mineral resource used both by American Indians and later generations.

In 1935 Bill Gordy, pictured here, opened a successful shop in Cartersville where he sold his popular folk pottery.



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Courtesy The Bartow History Museum