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New Civil War marker in Ga. shows role of women

A new marker in Augusta is highlighting the role of women in the workforce during the Civil War and their strike for safer conditions at a gunpowder factory.

The marker dedicated this weekend is part of an effort by the Georgia Historical Society to focus attention during the war's 150th anniversary on groups whose history has previously often ignored or overlooked. Those include women on the Confederate homefront, African Americans and Southern Unionists.

The Augusta Chronicle reports (<http://bit.ly/qauQH8>) that the marker commemorates an Aug. 27, 1864, explosion that killed eight men and one boy at a city gunpowder factory. That explosion and poor pay prompted female workers to go on strike in October.

With Southern men serving in the Confederate Army, women and children were called upon to work.