American history is defined by conflict. The country itself was born through a bloody revolution, and has repeatedly entered into war, both at home and abroad. Each time the United States military marches off to war, Wilton has responded. Wiltonians have fought in many of America's conflicts, but the town's efforts have gone beyond sending soldiers into battle. The exhibition *Bullets, Bonds, and Butter: Wilton Responds to War* commemorates the contributions of both the soldiers and of the townsfolk who have answered the call of war. While troops have fought on the front lines, back at home, Wilton residents of all ages were engaged in supporting the war effort in ways both large and small. Rationing, writing letters, knitting socks and making bandages, buying war bonds, manufacturing supplies of all kinds, spotting airplanes from observation towers, collecting scrap, sending soccer balls to underprivileged children around the world, and in some cases, protesting against war were all part of the response. Time and again, the town has reacted to announcements of peace: a thrill of joy followed by sorrow for family, friends and neighbors who lost their lives, or returned broken from the conflict. Eventually, war memorials were erected, and American Legion Post 86, named for James B. Whipple, killed in action in Belleau Wood, France, June 3, 1918, was established in Wilton Center.

*Bullets, Bonds, and Butter: Wilton Responds to War* includes material from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Viet Nam War, and the war in Iraq. To mark the anniversary of the birth of the American Legion in March of 1919, the Wilton Historical Society worked with Adjutant Tom Moore to develop a special section on the history of the organization, which includes some of their artifacts, including materials related to Corporal Whipple.