

## **Life in Lincoln during World War II**

On Sunday, February 1, at Bemis Hall, the Lincoln Historical Society presented a program about life on the home front in Lincoln during World War II with John Cowles as speaker. Set up around the room were posters from that time period, featuring Uncle Sam, War Bonds, Rosie the Riveter, Air Raid Wardens and Factory Workers. Citizens were urged to Buy War Bonds, Join the Navy, Start a Victory Garden and other activities to help the war effort. To set the right tone the program opened with a recordings of Kate Smith, including “God Bless America.”

When the war started, the Federal Government ordered individual communities to organize just what needed to be done. John Cowles researched and uncovered a vast amount of material detailing all the challenges: rationing, evacuation, victory gardens, and duties of air raid wardens among others. This material was displayed on a large table for people to look at. Also displayed were several cans of Spam, with suitable recipes.

Ariane Liazos served refreshments, which included 2 cakes made using recipes and ingredients from wartime. The recipes are available on the Lincoln Historical Society website. The program ended with members of the audience contributing their own memories of the war either in Lincoln or elsewhere. They went home with Kate Smith’s “God Bless America” still ringing in their ears.