

We stand before the town's monument to the men and women of Bedford who served in the Great War, later known as World War I. The US was in the war for less than two years, from April 1917 to November 1918. Bedford was a small community of only 1400 people, yet there are 71 names on the monument. Bedford's servicemen were sent to many parts of the world. At least 17 served in France, where the fighting was bitter, protracted, and sometimes hopeless. Some fought in battle after battle. Some were wounded, some were gassed, and some were stricken in the terrible influenza epidemic. Three Bedford men never returned home. Stanley Anthony died at the age of 24 when his ship was accidentally rammed by another American ship. Hugh Hunt, age 19, and William Walter Hamilton, a career Marine with lengthy military service, were both killed in action in France. Here at home, the people of Bedford put tremendous effort into supporting the troops. They rang the church bell each time a serviceman returned home. The Armistice at the end of the war was a time of great jubilation. After the war, the town created this monument to remind of the deeds of those who served in that terrible, terrible war—lest we forget.