

# “A Lincoln Remembrance”

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The 11th annual meeting of NASSH was held at Mont Alto, Pennsylvania, a site not far from the battlefield of Gettysburg -scene of the decisive three day battle which was the turning point of the American Civil War when fought 120 years ago. As a background to the pilgrimage which NASSH members took to the Gettysburg battle site, a special presentation, “The Civil War and Human Resilience” was presented before NASSH members.

In presenting “A Lincoln Remembrance,” the awesome experience of the Civil War was sketched. The stakes were staggering; for one it tested the resiliency of popular government; for another it sped the industrial revolution and ushered the United States onto the world political stage as a power of the first rank. Militarily, the struggle was one of the first mass industrialized conflicts -a harbinger of the great 20th century wars. Socially, the war raised the curtain on a continuing struggle between white and colored peoples of the world.

In Abraham Lincoln the conflict produced the most enduring hero of American history. It was Lincoln the war leader, whose resiliency in the face of terrible challenge, that was the subject of the brief remembrance. His dynamic character, his zealous leadership, his role as spokesman of the Union cause, and his abiding faith in popular government were focal points. Yet in Tolstoy’s words, “His genius is still too strong and powerful for the common understanding, just as the sun is too hot when its light beams directly on us.”