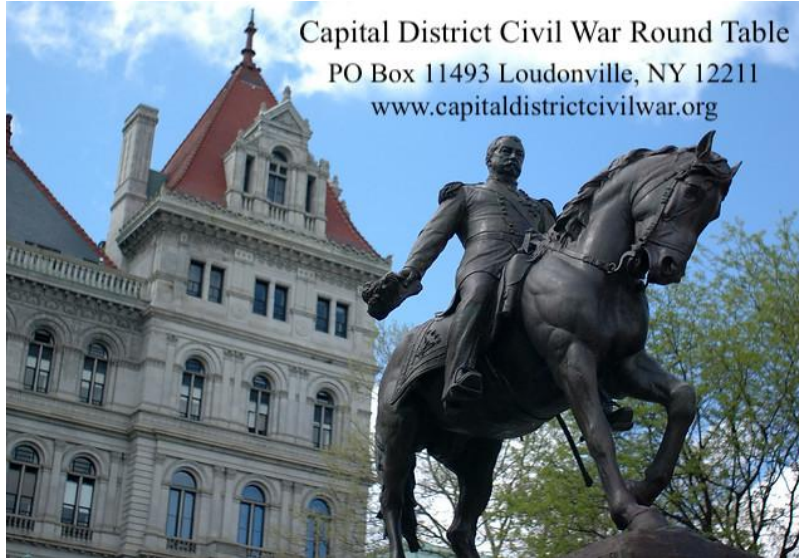


# *The Dispatch*

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## **Thoughts from Historian and Author John Hennessy**



## NOVEMBER MEETING

Friday, November 10, 2023

AT THE WATERVLIT  
SENIOR CENTER

**John Hennessy**

Social Hour with light refreshments	6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Presentation	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Historian and author John Hennessy started his National Park Service career at Manassas National Battlefield Park in the early 1980s and has since written extensively on a number of Civil War subjects. He is recently retired as Chief Historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields National Military Park's Facebook page posted this announcement in 2021 in recognition of Hennessy's retirement:

*"Today, we are marking the end of an era at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. John Hennessy, our Chief of Interpretation, is retiring after 40 years with the National Park Service.*

*John began his career with the NPS as a seasonal employee at Manassas Battlefield. After working at the New York State Historic Preservation Office and Harpers Ferry Center, John joined the staff at Fredericksburg and*

*Spotsylvania National Military Park in 1995.*

*Since then John has been a critical advocate for excellence in the interpretation of the park story. John's work has educated and inspired thousands of park visitors. He wrote many of our visitor center exhibits and interpretive signs and established many popular park programs such as the History at Sunset series. Over the years, John's efforts have made the history on the ground come alive.*

*Though leaving the park, by his own words, John will not be leaving the world of public history, and we can expect much more from him to come in the future. Today, we wish John the best in his retirement!"*

While his topic will be a surprise, there is no doubt that his presentation will be excellent.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 8: the NYS Archives Partnership Trust is holding their annual Empire State Archives & History Award program. This year's honoree is Jon Meacham. Go to <https://www.nysarchivestrust.org/> for tickets and more information.

December 8: Carolyn Ivanoff returns to speak on letters from the 17th Connecticut. She spoke to us previously about Clara Barton

January 12: our annual Potpourri Night. Contact Matt George if you are interested in making a short presentation (15 - 20 minutes)

## **BOARD UPDATES**

The Executive Board met via Zoom on October 16. The Preservation Account balance at this time is \$3,132.11. The Operating Account balance is \$3,591.89. There will be continued expenditures from this account for newsletter printings and program expenses.

The Round Table still has several copies of the book "Gettysburg's Lost Love: the ill-fated romance of General John Reynolds and Kate Hewitt" for sale.

## **BUFORD'S VIEW**

by Matt George

On Friday Nov. 17 I'll be traveling to Gettysburg for Remembrance Day. On the 19th they will hold the traditional Dedication Day ceremony at the National Cemetery. This is the 50th anniversary of the historic 1963 ceremony that marked the centennial of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The keynote speaker is Susan Eisenhower, the granddaughter of Dwight Eisenhower. Emmy-nominated actor Graham Sibley, star of the History Channel's Series Abraham Lincoln, will present the Gettysburg Address. Also on the podium will be Harold Holzer and Doris Kearns Goodwin. The Lincoln Fellowship Luncheon will follow immediately at the Wyndham Hotel. Many of the above dignitaries will also be at the luncheon. I've attended these events for many years, and they are well worth it. The cemetery event can be cold, so it is suggested that attendees dress warmly.

On Nov. 8 the N.Y.S. Archives Partnership Trust and The New York State Writers Institute will present historian Jon Meacham, who will be interviewed by Harold Holzer at the N.Y.S. Museum and Cultural Center. Meacham's most recent book is "There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle." Tickets must be purchased for this event. I'm looking forward to listening to Meacham whose previous books were "His Truth Is Marching On -John L. Lewis and the Power of Hope" and "The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels".

Tonight, I will be attending the Writer's Institute's screening of the 2018 movie Fahrenheit 451 (a remake of the 1966 movie). Both are adaptations of Ray Bradbury's 1950s novel of the same name. The significance of this 70-year-old classic SF novel is all too evident. The recent return of book banning (and burning) in this country is not only a threat to education, but also a frightening reminder of the policies of NAZI Germany in the World War II era. It leads to great distortions and perversions of the truth in respect to the Civil War and African American history (including the Civil Rights movement).

**TRIVIA:** Email answers to this month's trivia questions to [jbuford63@aol.com](mailto:jbuford63@aol.com)

Last month's answers: The first quote was from the Civil War. The second quote was from WWI by Wilford Owen. (Owen was killed just before the war ended). This month's question: Who wrote the famous SF/Civil War short story "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge?"

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*Created in 1984, the Capital District Civil War Round Table is an incorporated non-profit educational organization. Meetings are held monthly in various locations in the Capital District. This newsletter is published eleven times per year. Annual dues are \$35. The purpose of the organization is to promote, educate, and further stimulate interest in, and discussion of, all aspects of the Civil War period.*

Contact the Capital District Civil War Round Table through  
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