

George F. Thompson Publishing, L.L.C.  
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Staunton, VA 24401-3511, U.S.A.  
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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (12.08.18)

**Author (as it should appear on the book):** Brian Black

**Title:** *Gettysburg Contested*

**Subtitle:** *150 Years of Preserving America's Cherished Landscape*

**Contributors:** Battle narrative by Richard B. Megraw

**Partner:** Published in association with the American Land Publishing Project

**Book pages:** 304

**Number and type of illustrations:** 116 photographs, maps, plans, and drawings

**Trim size:** 7.0" x 9.0" upright/portrait

**List price:** \$34.95

**Discount:** trade

**ISBN (book):** 978-1-938086-48-9

**ISBNs (electronic):** n/a

**Edition:** Softcover with gatefold flaps

**E-book?** N.A.

**Interactive e-book?** N.A.

**Jacket:** No

**Edition size:** 1,100 (of which 1,000 are pre-purchased by UVAP)

**Publication date:** February/March 2019

**Advances due:**

**To warehouse:**

**Printed in:** U.S.A.

**Distributor:** University of Virginia Press ([www.upress.virginia.edu](http://www.upress.virginia.edu))

**Bookstore categories (list three):** History/Civil War/Preservation

**Tagline:** The first book to record how Gettysburg has been preserved and commemorated since 1863!

**Audience and Selling points (list three):** (1) July 1-3, 2018 marked the 155th anniversary of Gettysburg; no book to date until this one has focused on how the field of battle has been preserved and commemorated since the pivotal battle that turned the tide of the war forever in favor of the Union; (2) Civil War historians, professional and amateur, continue to gobble up new books that offer new perspectives on specific Civil War topics and battles, and this book pioneers new ground; and (3) scholars (and teachers and students) who are especially interested in American studies, environmental history, Civil War and military history, historic preservation, landscape studies, heritage tourism, and related fields will have to pay attention to this book

because of its originality of topic and coverage.

### **Description of the work:**

Ever since the American Revolution, sites representing key events in American history were crucial to the young nation's efforts to formalize its story. And, following the Civil War, national history became a primary vehicle for patriotic and spiritual reconstruction, and sites such as historic battlefields served important roles in remembering the past during the nation's subsequent challenging periods, including the Great Depression and Vietnam War.

*Gettysburg Contested* traces these patterns of commemoration back to the well-known field of battle of July 1–3, 1863, earning for it a new and lasting legacy as sacred ground that remains today, more than 150 years later. But the landscape history and record of preservation at Gettysburg is complicated, for Gettysburg has wrestled large issues, ranging from public vs. private development to the role of local vs. state vs. federal government, to the actual implementation of memorialization on the battlefield.

While the story of the battle is ingrained in the fabric of American memory, Brian Black's account considerably broadens the scope. Never before has Gettysburg's story been told so completely, offering layer upon layer, story upon story, to great effect. Gettysburg thus becomes a springboard to understanding more fully the nation's need for sacred sites and symbols of America's past, including cherished landscapes such as Gettysburg. In *Gettysburg Contested*, America's treasured battlefield becomes the great laboratory for how Americans preserve and honor the past. Like America itself, the story continues to unfold right before our eyes.

### **Blurbs:**

“This book tells what happened *after* the smoke of the Civil War battle at Gettysburg had cleared and Abraham Lincoln had delivered his greatest speech ever. *Gettysburg Contested* is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding not only that pivotal battle, but also the subsequent process of its memorialization. Brian Black has given us a work of consummate scholarship: rich in detail, clear and moving in narration, and loaded with insight into how Americans have created a national memory and a sense of the sacred.”

—Donald E. Worster, Hall Distinguished Professor of American History, Emeritus, University of Kansas, and author of *Shrinking the Earth: The Rise and Decline of American Abundance* and *A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir*

“Brian Black's *Gettysburg Contested* is a superb biography of one of America's most compelling historic sites. The drama of three days in July 1863 and the generations of commemoration,

preservation, commercialization, and interpretation, bring Gettysburg alive for readers through a lively text and a treasure trove of visual materials.”

—Edward T. Linenthal, Professor of History, Indiana University, and author of *Sacred Ground: Americans and Their Battlefields*

“The study and interpretation of historical landscapes has established itself as a major field of study. *Gettysburg Contested* contributes to our understanding of the preservation and manipulation of one of America's most cherished shrines. Brian Black's strong narrative details the triumphs, failures, aspirations, and pitfalls of interpreting and preserving an institution that means many things—and often different things—to many people.”

—Roderick Gainer, Chief Curator, Arlington National Cemetery

“Over recent years, scholarship on militarized landscapes has ventured far beyond the battlefield itself. Brian Black's handsomely illustrated book returns us to the battlefield, but this is a far cry from traditional military history; for Black has crafted a deeply intimate study of the politics and ecology of preservation, memorialization and restoration at one of America's most hallowed pieces of ground. Steeped in a strong sense of place, Black's handsomely illustrated book powerfully communicates the rich and complex layering of Gettysburg's storied landscape since 1863.”

—Peter Coates, Professor of American and Environmental History, University of Bristol, and co-editor of *Militarized Landscapes: From Gettysburg to Salisbury Plain*

“At Gettysburg National Military Park, the battle didn't end in 1863. For more than 150 years, the place, its meaning, and its natural and cultural landscapes have been in the crosshairs of conflict. In this much anticipated and masterful book, Brian Black traces the battlefield's complicated and contested history, both honoring and critically analyzing efforts to preserve what is among the nation's most sacred spaces. Highly readable, beautifully illustrated, and deeply researched, Black's book is required reading for anyone interested in historical preservation, environmental studies, and the U.S. Civil War.”

—Lisa M. Brady, Professor of History, Boise State University, and author of *War upon the Land: Military Strategy and the Transformation of Southern Landscapes during the American Civil War*

“It is high time that someone came up with this unusually able work. *Gettysburg Contested* makes a valuable addition to the history of this significant historical battlefield after the battle itself.”

—Gabor S. Boritt, Director Emeritus of the Civil War Institute and Robert C. Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Studies, Gettysburg College, and author of *The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech that Nobody Knows*

“With a keen eye for the natural environment and a scholar’s sensibility, Brian Black illuminates Gettysburg’s transformation from bloody battlefield to affecting memorial—sacred ground subject to visioning and refashioning by competing constituencies since 1863. Exhaustively researched, deftly organized, and felicitously presented, *Gettysburg Contested* makes a valuable contribution to understanding Gettysburg’s preservation and to memory studies.”

—Michael J. Birkner, Professor of History, Gettysburg College, and co-editor of *James Buchanan and the Coming of the Civil War*

“*Gettysburg Contested* tells three fascinating stories. The first is Rich Megraw’s day-by-day narrative of the most important battle of the Civil War. Next, Brian Black traces the 150-year-long struggle of competing efforts to preserve and manage this sacred battleground. Finally, a third story unfolds through more than 100 breathtaking black-and-white photographs that document the physical and cultural transformation of the Gettysburg landscape. The result is a rich, innovative, and distinctly American history.”

—Neil M. Maher, Professor of History, NJIT-Rutgers University, and author of *Apollo in the Age of Aquarius*

“Brian Black’s survey of the history and natural history of Gettysburg is a model study of the evolution of our national parks, tracing the controversies over whether the epic battlefield should be groomed to remain just before the epic clash, or just after the battle, or some other way. Beautifully illustrated with maps and photos, *Gettysburg Contested* is an important book that makes a lasting contribution to the study of this iconic place.”

—Richard Tucker, Adjunct Professor of World Environmental History, University of Michigan, and author of *Insatiable Appetite: The United States and the Ecological Degradation of the Tropical World*

**About the Author (use the jacket and catalog version from the Author’s Information form):**

*Brian Black* is Head of the Division of Arts and Humanities and Distinguished Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Penn State Altoona. His articles on preservation and environmental history have

appeared in *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Civil War History*, *Environmental History*, *Journal of American History*, *Landscape*, *Pennsylvania History*, *Reconstruction*, and *USA Today*, among others. He is the author and editor of several books, including *Nature's Entrepôt: Philadelphia's Urban Sphere and Its Environmental Thresholds* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012), *Crude Reality: Petroleum in World History* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012), which was selected by CHOICE as an outstanding academic book for 2012, *Petrolia: The Landscape of America's First Oil Boom* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), which won the Paul H. Giddens Prize in Oil History, and the four-volume *Climate Change: An Encyclopedia of History and Science* (ABC-CLIO, 2013). Black has received awards and support from Penn State's Institute of Arts and Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Hewlett Foundation, and Gilder-Lehrman Institute for History, and, in 2012, he was awarded Penn State Altoona's medal in Outstanding Achievement in Research and Creative Activity.

**About the Contributor:**

*Richard B. Megraw*, whose ancestor from Pennsylvania fought and died at Gettysburg, is Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Alabama and the author of *Confronting Modernity: Art and Society in Louisiana* (University Press of Mississippi, 2008) and the forthcoming *Gettysburg, Like Granite under Foot: My Kind of Civil War Battlefield*.