



**The Reminiscences of George Strother Gaines:  
Pioneer and Statesman of Early Alabama and  
Mississippi, 1805-1843 (Library of Alabama  
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*George Strother Gaines*

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This first book-length, annotated edition of Gaines' *Reminiscences* provides a fascinating glimpse into the early history of the Mississippi-Alabama Territory and antebellum Alabama.

The two sections of the *Reminiscences* of George Strother Gaines form one of the most important primary sources on the early history of

Alabama and Mississippi. The *Reminiscences* cover the years 1805 to 1843, during which time Gaines served as assistant factor and then factor of the Choctaw trading house (1805-18), cashier of Tombeckbee Bank in St. Stephens (1818-22), a merchant in Demopolis (1822-32), and finally a banker and merchant in Mobile (1832-43). In addition, Gaines played a key role in Indian-white relations during the Creek War of 1813-14, served a two-year term in the Alabama Senate (1825-27), led a Choctaw exploring party to the new Choctaw lands in the West following the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek (1830-31), and served as the superintendent for Choctaw removal (1831-32).

Gaines dictated his *Reminiscences* in 1871 at the age of eighty-seven. Part of the *Reminiscences*, referred to as the "first series," was originally published in five issues of the *Mobile Register* in June-July 1872 as "Notes on the Early Days of South Alabama." Nearly a century later, the first series and the previously unpublished second series, "Reminiscences of Early Times in Mississippi Territory," were published in a 1964 issue of the *Alabama Historical Quarterly* as "Gaines' Reminiscences."

In this first book-length edition of the *Reminiscences*, James Pate has provided an extensive biographical introduction, notes, illustrations,

maps, and appendixes to aid the general reader and the scholar. The appendixes include additional unpublished primary materials-including interviews conducted by Albert James Pickett in 1847 and 1848 that provide further information about this important early pioneer and statesman.

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