

## Major John P. Gaines

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**G**AINES, MAJ. JOHN P., was a Virginian by birth; came to Kentucky while young; represented Boone County in the Legislature, being elected first in 1825; was several times re-elected; volunteered in the Mexican War, in 1846, and was made Major of the First Kentucky Regiment of Cavalry; was taken prisoner at Encarnacion, when escape was impossible, and destruction inevitable, without surrendering; was ordered, by Gen. Lombardini, to go to Toluca, on that account withdrawing his parole as prisoner of war, winning the admiration of the people of his State. He escaped through the lines of the enemy; joined our army, and fought gallantly at Cherubusco and Chapultepec, and in the battles before the walls of Mexico. He was the only volunteer from Kentucky who participated in these conquests of Gen. Scott. While a prisoner in Mexico, he was elected by his friends to the Lower House of Congress, serving in that body from 1847 to 1849. In September, 1850, he was appointed Governor of Oregon by President Fillmore, holding that position until the Spring of 1853. In that year he died.

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