In 1925, James H. Hunt was considered to be the largest taxpayer in Hall County.

Luther B. Bridgers, noted song writer and evangelist. Wrote the song “He Keeps Me Singing.”

Col. C. C. Sanders, built around 1931. It began operation as a hotel and coffee shop.

The Wheeler Hotel, built around 1931. It began operation as a hotel and coffee shop.

The Brown Family Cemetery was moved from just off the downtown square to make way for the construction of The Wheeler Hotel.

Maude Mooney, always a performer. Her stone proclaims, “Final Curtain”.

Dr. Butler was the first black member of the Gainesville Board of Education in 1950.

In 1925, James H. Hunt was considered to be the largest taxpayer in Hall County.

Two former Georgia Governors and the son of a third Georgia Governor are buried in Alta Vista Cemetery.

Alta Vista is owned and operated by the City of Gainesville. It is a historic cemetery that has been in continuous operation since its establishment over 150 years ago.

This brochure has been created to assist visitors to Alta Vista.

Alta Vista’s new Chapel Mausoleum

Lt. General James Longstreet

A WALKING TOUR GUIDE TO ALTA VISTA CEMETERY

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2. Susie Roberts – One of the “Ladies of the Lake.”


4. Col. C. C. Sanders – Confederate soldier, and banker. Statue of Col. Sanders was blown away by “The Tornado of ’36.”

5. Harold W. Telford – His memorial stone simply states “Lost in the Alps.”


7. Daniel Boone – No, not the famous frontiersman.


9. Governor James M. Smith – Georgia Governor.

10. Governor Allen D. Candler – Georgia Governor.

11. Gen Richard Venable – One of our older graves.

12. Estes’ Lot – A monument reportedly hand carved in Italy.

13. Della Parker Young – One of the “Ladies of the Lake.”


15. Dr. Richard Banks – The Georgia Legislature honored Dr. Banks by naming Banks County in his name.

16. Pickrell Lot – Col. Pickrell may have been one of the earlier residents of Green Street. The family was from Nantucket and one on this lot is thought to have been killed by a whale.

17. Joe McDonald Vandiver – Stone says “Lost at Sea.” Also on this lot is Bedney J. McDonald, son of Georgia Governor Charles J. McDonald.

18. William Pugh Smith – First Mayor of Gainesville. Mayor Smith’s son (Robert H. Smith) was Gainesville’s first paid Fire Chief.

19. Pearce Lot – Haywood J. Pearce was the first student to enroll at Riverside Military Academy. Haywood Pearce became President of Brenau College until his death in 1943.

20. Dr. E. E. Butler – Noted Gainesville physician.


22. Luther B. Bridges – Composer of the famous Christian Hymn “He Keeps Me Singing.”

23. American Legion Lot – Veteran’s Area. A flag pole was placed here by the Chicopee Legion Post. The flag pole lasted around 75 years before being replaced in 2000.


25. David T. Harris – Confederate soldier and member of “The Immortal 600.”

26. Pruitt / Barrett Mausoleum – Mr. Barrett, a local businessman, was killed in “The Tornado of ’36.”

27. Boring / Koerber Mausoleum – No information but it is a beautiful Mausoleum.


30. Tornado of ’36 Victims – Unknown Dead.

31. Minor W. Brown – A family plot relocated from the downtown Gainesville Square. The Hall County Library Headquarters now occupies this site.


33. Maude Mooney – Circus trapeze performer.

34. Emory Peck – Music Professor at Brenau College. Composer of the song “Sing And Be Happy.”

35. B. P. Byrd – Railroad employee. His stone has the likeness of an old steam engine.


Other notable stops will be included in a later edition.