



WELCOME BACK!

2022 BIDWELL FAMILY REUNION

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

June 23 – 27, 2022

Holiday Inn Hartford Downtown Area

100 East River Drive ~ East Hartford, CT 06108

After two long years without gathering for our annual reunion, the Bidwell Family Association is pleased to welcome Bidwell cousins from across the United States, Canada, and beyond, to Hartford, Connecticut for our 2022 BFA Reunion.

Bidwell cousins last gathered in Hartford, CT for their annual reunion in July of 1976! Hartford is the capital city of the state of Connecticut. John Bidwell was an original proprietor of the Town of Hartford. He was allotted "by courtesy of the town", an island of a few acres in the Little River where he had a tan yard. This area is now part of Bushnell Park.

He married his wife Sarah (Wilcox) Bidwell and together they raised their family in Hartford.

Hartford is one of the oldest cities in America and is rich in history.

It is the home of the oldest public art museums in the United States. Since opening its doors in 1844, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is home to almost 50,000 works of art, spanning 5,000 years!

The Hartford Courant is not only the largest daily newspaper in Connecticut, but it is also the oldest continuously published newspaper in the United States.

Hartford is home to Bushnell Park, the oldest publicly funded park in the United States.

Hartford is a perfect place for the Bidwell Family Reunion!

Please note there may be some changes to our reunion due to new rules imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic. Reunion attendees will be asked to abide by the mandates in place at the time of our reunion implemented by the state of Connecticut.

Our reunion itinerary is subject to change given the uncertainty of the Covid-19 virus. In the event that the pandemic worsens and requires us to cancel the reunion, attendees will receive a full refund of their registration fees.

SCHEDULE OF REUNION EVENTS

Thursday, June 23 ~ Arrival & Registration

BFA Attendee Registration 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Please stop in our hospitality room to register and pick up important reunion information.

Dinner on your own ~ Evening is free to catch up with cousins

Friday, June 24 ~ An Afternoon in the 18th Century

BFA Board Meeting

Non- Board members are welcome to attend the meeting and participate in all aspects of the meeting except voting.

Morning is free for non-board members

Noah Webster House Tour & Hearth Cooked Lunch

Friday afternoon our group will travel by bus to West Hartford, CT to tour the restored 18th-century birthplace and childhood home of Noah Webster. Webster was the creator of the first American dictionary and "Blue-Backed Speller".

We'll enjoy the atmosphere of an 18th- century tavern over a three-course meal by candlelight where attendees can observe the cooking or even participate!

We can't leave without trying some tavern games like Nine Men's Morrice, Skittles, Shove Ha'Penny or Captain's Mistress!

Dinner on your own

Saturday, June 25 ~ Ancient Burial Grounds Tour & BFA Banquet

Ancient Burial Grounds ~ Guided tour and Question/Answer session

Just a short drive or walk into the center of downtown Hartford will take our group to the Ancient Burial Grounds.

The Ancient Burial Ground is the oldest historic site in Hartford, and the only one surviving from the 1600's.

From 1640, four years after the arrival of the first English settlers, down until the early 1800's, it was Hartford's first and foremost graveyard. During that period anyone who died in town, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic background, economic status, or religious faith, was interred here.

The oldest gravestone is believed to be that for Timothy Stanley, who died in 1648.

The burial ground is also home to the Founder's Monument. Although it is not the original which was erected in 1837, the 1986 monument lists all the original founders of Hartford. John Bidwell's name appears on side one.

Lunch on own & free time to explore downtown Hartford

General BFA Business Meeting ~ Banquet Dinner ~ BFA Auction

Memorial Service ~ Remembering those we lost

Banquet Dinner & BFA Annual Auction*

***BFA AUCTION**

We ask that attendees bring at least one item to be auctioned off during our annual BFA Auction.

Any attendee can bid on any item. Please have information on your item and/or its approximate value.

Payment for items won during the auction is required at the end of the evening.

Payments accepted: Cash or Check only. If you have questions about an item you wish to bring, please contact the reunion committee at tbidwellny@roadrunner.com.

Sunday, June 26 ~ Roses, Samuel Clemens and Bidwell Tavern

Elizabeth Gardens

We will travel by bus throughout the day. Bidwell cousins can stop and smell the roses at the first municipal rose garden in the United States and the third largest rose garden in the country today.

Opened in 1897, the Elizabeth Gardens was once the residence and grounds of industrialist, Charles M. Pond. He willed the estate to the city of Hartford to be used as a horticultural park stipulating that it be named for his wife, Elizabeth.

The Helen S. Kaman rose garden, established in 1904, features 212 rose beds, 75 rose arches and 150 unique varieties of roses. Mid-June to early July features the rose garden in full bloom!

In addition to the roses, Elizabeth Park has perennial gardens, rock gardens, Stone Bridge, and Laurel Pond.

Lunch at the Mark Twain House

Bidwell cousins will enjoy a delicious deli sandwich lunch on the grounds of the Mark Twain House.

Mark Twain House Tour ~ Exhibits ~ Gift Shop

The Mark Twain House & Museum, named one of the 10 best historic homes in the world, was the home of Samuel Langhorne Clemens and his family from 1874 to 1891. Sam and Olivia Clemens built this unique 3-story, 25-room mansion to be near Sam's publisher. Here they raised their three daughters.

Twain wrote his most important works during the years he lived there, including "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer", and "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court".

Our group will enjoy a guided tour through the home, time for viewing exhibits in the Visitor's Center, a stop at the Gift Shop and time to explore the grounds.

****If our schedule allows, we will make a brief stop at the Nathan Hale Cemetery in Coventry, CT before dinner.***

Nathan Hale was born in Coventry, CT. He was an American patriot, soldier and spy for the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. He was captured by the British and executed (hanged) at age 21. His famous last words, "I only regret I have but one life to lose for my country".

The cemetery is also the burial place of Solomon Bidwell who built the Bidwell Hotel in 1822.

Dinner at Bidwell Tavern & Café

A short bus ride to Coventry, CT will take us to the Bidwell Tavern for our Sunday evening dinner.

Established in 1822, the Bidwell Tavern has been a gathering place and a stagecoach stop.

The Tavern has a full menu from appetizers to dinners.

Attendees will order off the menu and pay for their own dinner of choice.

Monday, June 27 ~ Departure Day

Hotel check out 11 am

★★★★★★★

Bradley International Airport to Holiday Inn East Hartford

Bradley International Airport (BDL): Turn right on CT-75 S. Merge onto CT-20 E toward I-91 S/Hartford then onto I-91 South. Follow 9.7 miles at Exit 30 merge onto I-84 E. Take Exit 53 US-44 E/Conn Blvd toward E Hartford. Turn right on E River Dr.

HOLIDAY INN HARTFORD DOWNTOWN AREA

Holiday Inn Hartford Downtown Area

100 East River Drive ~ East Hartford, CT 06108

The Holiday Inn is located in an upscale corporate office park and offers easy and complimentary parking. The hotel is easily accessible from Interstates 91 and 84 and an easy drive from Bradley International Airport (BDL).

The hotel is within walking distance to Downtown Hartford.

MAKING HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Call hotel directly to make room reservations: 860-528-9703

“Bidwell Family Reunion” must be mentioned when making reservations.

ROOM RATES

ROOM TYPE	THURSDAY ~ 6/23	FRIDAY ~ 6/24	SATURDAY ~ 6/25	SUNDAY ~ 6/26
King Bed	\$99.00*	\$99.00*	\$99.00*	\$99.00*
Two Double Beds	\$99.00*	\$99.00*	\$99.00*	\$99.00*

***Breakfast is NOT included in the room rate**

15% local fees and taxes will be added to above price

Total Room Price with tax = \$113.85

Above rates are effective from Thursday, June 23, 2022 – Sunday, June 26, 2022

Hotel Check-In - 3:00 pm Hotel Check-out - 11:00 am

If you are not a member of Holiday Inn's reward program, IHG® Rewards, you may join by visiting the website www.ihg.com and earn points starting with your reunion stay.

It is not mandatory to join to make reservations for the reunion. The rewards program is free to join.

CANCELLATION POLICY FOR ROOMS

If you need to cancel or change your room reservation, you must do so **24 hours in advance** to your arrival date to avoid a cancellation or no-show charge.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2022.

HOSTING A BIDWELL FAMILY REUNION

The BFA Reunion Committee is looking for hosts for future BFA reunions. Hosting a reunion is a rewarding experience and gives you the chance to have a more active role in the Bidwell Family Association.

We are looking for hosts for 2024 and beyond.

If you are interested in hosting a BFA reunion or have questions, please contact:
Tina Bidwell, Reunion Committee Chair ~ tbidwellny@roadrunner.com



TO JOIN THE BIDWELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION OR TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

(Use form below to send in dues)

Annual Membership **\$20.00** or LIFE membership **\$200.00**

Renewal Annual Membership _____ New Membership _____

LIFE Membership _____

NAME & BFA # (see mailing label) _____
(Names of self and spouse)

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/PROVINCE/ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please make checks payable to: **Bidwell Family Association**
(U.S. FUNDS ONLY)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

MAIL TO:

John Bidwell Jr, BFA Treasurer
47 Doe Haven Circle
Depew NY 14043

REGISTRATION FORM 2022 BIDWELL FAMILY REUNION

First Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Are you a BFA Member YES NO BFA Membership# _____ Is this your first reunion YES NO

Please use the reverse side for additional attendees

***Child Prices age 11 and under**

Friday – June 24, 2022

Bus Transportation -- Lunch at Noah Webster House – Tavern Games – Tour of Noah Webster House

Adult \$45.00 Name _____ Amount _____

Child* \$25.00 Name _____ Amount _____

Total Amount Paid for Friday _____

Saturday – June 25, 2022

Tour of Ancient Burial Grounds – No Group Transportation

Adult \$10.00 Name _____ Amount _____

Child* \$5.00 Name _____ Amount _____

BFA Annual Banquet – Buffet Dinner - Saturday June 25, 2022

Buffet meal including salad, two meat entrees, side dishes, dessert, coffee & tea service

Adult \$50.00 Name _____ Amount _____

Name _____ Amount _____

Child* \$25.00

Total Amount Paid for Saturday _____

Sunday – June 26, 2022

Bus Transportation, Tour of Elizabeth Gardens, Lunch at Mark Twain House, Tour of Mark Twain House & Exhibits

Lunch includes a choice of sandwich served with fruit or cookie and chips. Bottle water included

Lunch Choice: **ORT** - Oven Roasted Turkey **ASM** – Applewood Smoked Ham **RB** – Roast Beef **VW** – Veggie Wrap

Dinner at Bidwell Tavern – Individuals pay for their own meal

Adult \$65.00 Name & lunch choice _____ Amount _____

Name & lunch choice _____ Amount _____

Child* \$35.00 Name & lunch choice _____ Amount _____

Total Amount Paid for Sunday _____

GRAND TOTAL PAID _____

Make Checks Payable to: **Bidwell Family Association**

Mail Checks to: **Tina Bidwell ~ 47 Doe Haven Circle ~ Depew NY 14043**

PAYMENTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022