



**YOU ARE INVITED!**  
**2026 Bidwell Family Reunion**  
**Nashville – Tennessee**  
**Holiday Inn - Vanderbilt**  
**July 9 – 13, 2026**

*Join us in Nashville as we come together for our annual reunion. Meet your Bidwell cousins and enjoy the sights and sounds of “Music City!”*

*Accommodations for our group will be at the Holiday Inn Nashville-Vanderbilt which is in the Midtown/West End area near Vanderbilt University.*

*While it is impossible to see everything Nashville has to offer in our short weekend, our reunion host, Carol Bidwell, along with the BFA Reunion Committee have selected a variety of tours and activities to give you a taste of Nashville! The invitation provides all the details you will need regarding the reunion events and accommodations.*

*Registration can be completed one of two ways:*

*1. Mail in your registration to BFA Reunion Committee with a completed registration form*

*2. Register and pay online using the following link:*

**<https://www.eventleaf.com/e/2026bidwellfamilyreunion>**

***Registration is due by Friday, May 22, 2026***  
***Room reservations are due by Tuesday, June 9, 2026.***

*We look forward to seeing you in Nashville!*



# Schedule of Events

## Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Hotel Check-in (4:00 pm) and Attendee Registration (3:00 pm – 5:00 pm)**

Reunion Host and members of the BFA Reunion Committee will be in the lobby to welcome you to Nashville. Please stop by to meet your reunion host and pick up your name tag and welcome bag!

**Evening Dinner (Approx 6:00 pm)** -- Join the BFA Secretary, Barb Lewison, as she takes Bidwell cousins for dinner at JBJ's Nashville – Jon Bon Jovi's 5-story rooftop bar and restaurant offers live music and delicious food. (This is a pay on your own dinner)

## Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>

Start the day with breakfast at our hotel – Vouchers will be given at hotel check-in

**Old Town Trolley Tour** - Our day begins with a ride on the Old Town Trolley for a tour of Nashville. Our trolley will pick us up at the hotel and drop us off back at the hotel. The tour is fully narrated by expert tour conductors. Every seat has the best view! Get an idea of what Nashville has to offer without stepping foot off the trolley. **(Please note: Seats on the trolley are first come first serve, so get your registration for the reunion in early to assure a seat on the trolley!)**

**Lunch on your own** – Suggestions include Elliston Place Soda Shop, Raising Canes Chicken, Wendy's, White Castle, and Five Guys all located close to our hotel.

After lunch, take time to visit with your Bidwell cousins, explore the area around the hotel, or rest up for our evening activities

### **Dinner at Santa Fe Cattle Company & Performance at the Grand Ole Opry: Opry 100**

Our bus will pick us up at the hotel (4:30 pm) to take us to Santa Fe Cattle Company for a delicious dinner. Our meal includes a choice of entrée upon arrival to the restaurant – choices include 6 oz Sirloin, Grilled Chicken (marinated or barbecue), Ribs, or Southern Fried Catfish. The meal includes salad, baked potato, beverage, and dessert!

After dinner our bus will take us to the Grand Ole Opry House – The Home of Country Music!

It is a perfect time to visit the Opry as it celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the 2025-2026 season. The Opry is marking a century since the 1925 radio debut! Our show, Opry 100, will include 6-8 artists including newcomers, superstars, and special guests. Our show will last two hours with a 15-minute intermission.

Not a country music fan? Not to worry, the Opry offers today's country music and a variety of performers, musicians, and even comedy along with some Classic country too!

After the show our bus will return us back to the hotel with amazing memories from the Grand Ole Opry Performance!



## **Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Start the day with breakfast at the hotel – Vouchers will be given at hotel check-in*

### ***Bidwell Family Association Board Meeting/Free time for Non-Board members***

*BFA Board members will meet Saturday am (9am – 11:30am) for the annual board meeting.*

*Non-Board members have the morning free to explore sites of their choice.*

### ***Box Lunch and Game Afternoon at the Hotel (Noon-3:00 pm)***

*Our popular game time is back! Enjoy a boxed lunch followed by an afternoon of games! Enjoy Bidwell Bingo and other games with the chance to win prizes!*

### ***Bidwell Family Association Banquet and Auction***

*Our evening will include a delicious buffet dinner while we spend time with our Bidwell cousins. After dinner we will hold the annual BFA Auction. Don't miss the delicious meal, time with cousins, and the always entertaining BFA Auction! (See additional notes for more information regarding the BFA Auction)*

## **Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**

*Start the day with breakfast at the hotel – Vouchers will be given at hotel check-in*

### ***Ryman Auditorium Guided Tour***

*Drive on your own or hitch a ride with a Bidwell Cousin to the Ryman Auditorium.*

*The Ryman Auditorium was completed in 1892 as the Union Gospel Tabernacle by steamboat captain Tom Ryman. The Ryman is a National Historic Landmark famed as the “Mother Church of Country Music.” It hosted the Grand Ole Opry from 1943 to 1974 and is renowned for its world-class acoustics, stunning Victorian architecture, and historic oak pews.*

*The guided tour takes us to the backstage areas and dressing rooms. We will see rare artifacts and hear untold stories from behind the scenes by our tour guide. This is a must tour for visitors to Nashville.*

### ***Lunch***

*After our guided tour at the Ryman, our group will go to “**Assembly Hall**” for lunch on your own. Assembly hall is located just across the street from the Ryman. The food hall has over 30 eateries and bars under one roof with shared seating throughout the hall. There is something for every taste! Some favorites are Nashville hot chicken from Prince's Hot Chicken, authentic tacos from Chilangos Tacos, a juicy gourmet burger from Pharmacy Burger Parlor, gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches at the Cheese Lab, and delicious pizza at Desano Pizzeria, just to name a few! Choose your lunch and pay on your own. (Please note that Assembly Food Hall is cashless – you must use a credit or debit card)*



## **Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> (continued)**

### **Belmont Mansion – Guided Tour**

The afternoon will take us to the historic Belmont Mansion.

Belmont Mansion is one of Nashville's most significant historic attractions. The mansion is the largest house built in Nashville prior to the Civil War. Constructed between 1850 and 1860 by the Acklen family, the mansion is one of the few homes from this period still standing in the city today.

Belmont Mansion is located in the middle of Belmont University's campus behind Freeman Hall and across from the Lila D. Bunch library. The University requires visitors to register their vehicles. In order to do so, you will need to enter your plate number, make, model and color of your vehicle in the following link:

**<https://belmont.aimsparking.com>**. This information will be available on Sunday as well. Please see your reunion host or a member of the BFA Reunion Committee. \*Belmont requires group tour members to arrive 10 minutes early. Late comers may not be able to take the guided tour.

### **Dinner at Commodore Grille – Holiday Inn Nashville Vanderbilt**

Our final event of the reunion will be a dinner inside our hotel at the Commodore Grille. Enjoy the final evening with your Bidwell cousins as we share good food with some live music.

## **Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**

Start the day with breakfast at the hotel – Vouchers will be given at hotel check-in

### **Departure Day**

It is time to say good bye to your Bidwell cousins until next year's reunion.

Hotel check out is 11 am

**BFA AUCTION:** The BFA Auction is an annual tradition to raise money for the BFA to help pay for reunion expenses and reduce costs for attendees. Attendees are asked to bring and donate at least one item for the auction. Items should be new or in good condition. Example of items include – Bidwell memorabilia and mementos – Handmade arts and crafts – Unique food and snack items – or any store-bought items that you feel will generate interest. Any attendee may bid on any items during the auction.

Payment for items won during the auction is required at the end of the auction in the form of cash or check only. If you have questions about the auction, please contact the BFA Reunion Committee via email at: [tbidwellny@roadrunner.com](mailto:tbidwellny@roadrunner.com)

**BFA SCHOLARSHIP:** The BFA Scholarship is available to students graduating from high school and entering a two-year or four-year college, university or trade or vocational school in the fall of 2026. Additional details and scholarship applications are available at [www.bidwell.org/scholarship](http://www.bidwell.org/scholarship)

**BIDWELL FAMILY HISTORY BOOK SET:** The two-volume book set of the Bidwell Family History is available for purchase. If interested, the set may be purchased as follows:

- Print and mail an order form: <https://www.bidwell.org/family-history-book-set/>
- Amazon.com: <https://www.amazon.com/Bidwell-Family-Association/dp/B008IGNWZS>

(To open above links -- Highlight link -- right click -- select "Open Link")

# Accommodations

## **Holiday Inn Nashville-Vanderbilt**

2613 West End Avenue

Nashville TN 37203

Main Hotel Phone - 615-321-8250

*The Holiday Inn Nashville – Vanderbilt is located in Nashville’s West End Neighborhood located approximately two miles west of downtown Nashville. The hotel is across from the Parthenon in Centennial Park. The hotel offers free Wi-Fi, a seasonal outdoor pool and a fitness center.*

*The Commodore Grille and The Brew are onsite eateries.*

*The hotel offers a complimentary shuttle service to some of the city’s most iconic attractions and neighborhoods. Please note there is **NO** airport shuttle.*

## Hotel Reservations

*Please call the hotel reservations directly: **615-321-8259** – Mention the group name “BFA Reunion” to secure the group rate. You may also use the online link to make reservations -- Online Link -- [BFA Reunion July 2026](#) (highlight link – right click – select open link)*

***Reservations must be made by June, 9, 2026 to guarantee room availability and group rates***

***Room reservations can be canceled by Tuesday, July 7, 2026 by 4 pm with no charges. If you cancel after 4 pm on July 7, 2026, you will be charged the first night stay.***

***The hotel does charge a parking fee per day for their guests.***

***Self-parking is \$35/per day. Valet parking is \$45/per day.***

<u>Room Type</u>	<u>Nightly Rate</u>
Queen Guest Room	\$149.00
King Guest Room	\$149.00
<i>Above prices are before the following charges: State sales tax of 9.75% Occupancy tax of 7% and City Tax of \$2.50 per night <b>Hotel Check in = 4:00 pm Hotel Check Out = 11:00 am</b></i>	

*If you are an IHG Rewards Member you can earn points on your stay by giving your IHG Rewards ID# when making reservations.*

# REGISTRATION FORM 2026 BIDWELL FAMILY REUNION

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone\* \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*Would you like to be included in group text messages and notifications during the reunion? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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

**\*Please use the reverse side for additional attendees**

## **Thursday – July 9, 2026**

Thursday evening dinner at JBJ's Nashville – Jon Bon Jovi's Roof top bar & restaurant

**Pay on your own dinner** – Number attending for reservation \_\_\_\_\_

## **Friday – July 10, 2026**

### **Morning breakfast at hotel**

Number of breakfasts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

### **Old Town Trolley Tour of Nashville**

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$48.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children (4-12 years): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Children under 4 years free

### **Dinner at Santa Fe Cattle Company – Grand Ole Opry Performance – Bus Transportation**

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$128.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

\*Children ages 3 and up are required to pay an Adult priced ticket

## **Saturday – July 11, 2026**

### **Morning breakfast at hotel**

Number of breakfasts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

### **Boxed Lunch and Games**

Number adults attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children (12 and under) attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

All boxed lunches include sandwich, fruit, cookie or brownie, bag of chips and bottled water

Sandwich type: Ham and Cheddar x \_\_\_\_\_

Turkey Club x \_\_\_\_\_

\*Gluten free bread is available for Vegan/GF) Please indicate above.

### **Bidwell Family Association Banquet and Auction**

We will enjoy a Southern Italian Buffet which includes soup, salad, Chicken Parmesan, Lasagna, Antipasto, Linguine Alfredo, roasted vegetables, garlic bread and for dessert Tiramisu and Cannoli.

Number adults attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 72.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children (12 and under) attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 45.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday – July 12, 2026**

**Morning breakfast at hotel**

Number of breakfasts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

**Guided Tour of Ryman Auditorium**

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$36.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Children 12 and under free with paying adult

**Lunch on your own – Assembly Hall**

**Guided Tour of Belmont Mansion**

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$22.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Children – 6-18: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Children under 6: Free admission

**Dinner at the Commodore Grille (located inside the Holiday Inn Vanderbilt Hotel)**

**This is a pay on your own dinner**

Number attending for reservation \_\_\_\_\_

**Monday – July 13, 2026**

**Morning breakfast at hotel**

Number of breakfasts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL PAID** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail Checks to: **BFA Treasurer – John Bidwell Jr  
47 Doe Haven Circle  
Depew NY 14043**

**\*PAYMENTS IN FULL ARE DUE BY FRIDAY MAY 22, 2026\***

*(Please make a copy of this form for your records)*

***A note from the BFA Reunion Committee: Please note that current food prices and fuel prices have increased our pricing for our meals and bus transportation. We have worked hard to get the best prices available. Thank you for understanding.***

*Nashville International Airport (BNA) is located approximately 9.5 miles from the hotel. Taxis and Ubers are located at Ground Transportation. **The hotel does not have an airport shuttle.***

*If you have any questions regarding the reunion, please contact the reunion host, Carol Bidwell or the BFA Reunion Committee.*

*Email: Carol Bidwell – Email: **cbidwel39@yahoo.com***

*BFA Reunion Committee – Email: **tbidwellny@roadrunner.com***

**Once the reunion begins, please contact the BFA Reunion Committee:**

**BFA Reunion Committee: John – 716-912-6420**

**BIDWELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

BFA Reunion Committee

47 Doe Haven Circle

Depew NY 14043

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**