

# JOIN

## Historic Virginia City

[Membership Card](#)

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[What People Are Saying About Virginia City & Nevada City](#)

May 2008

Dear Montana History Lover!

Just over a decade ago, friends of Montana made history. You made sure Montana protected one of the largest collections of authentic western history in the towns of *Virginia City and Nevada City*. The preservation efforts of the Montana Heritage Commission have been called “one of the most ambitious preservation projects in the nation” (New York Times, July 2002).

**I invite you to continue making history with us, and**  
**Join! *Historic Virginia City*.**

**JOIN Today!** And choose from a range of great benefits for you and your family to enjoy.\*

- A one-year free pass into the Nevada City Museum
- Complimentary tickets and discounts to events all year
- Moonlight train tickets

**You will feel good knowing your membership will help our preservation efforts—ensuring these irreplaceable historic treasures of irreplaceable are protected for the enjoyment of future generations.**

\* options vary by membership levels



Virginia City and Nevada City are not quite like any other historic landmark. The town set the foundation of Montana society—and was home to the first public school, the first printed newspaper, the first social clubs, the first commercial brewery, and the territorial capital from 1865-1875. Virginia City is a U.S. National Historic Landmark and the 5<sup>th</sup> most-visited tourist destination in Montana (ITRR, Sept. 2006).



Our sites function as a “living” museum within the context of a real town of 130 residents, a county seat, active preservation projects, and host to 25 private businesses. The diverse nature of our responsibilities requires that we be part entrepreneur, property manager, educator, preservationist, and community leader.

***We Share Montana History***

# Join - Historic Virginia City

Your donation will ensure that we save this unique piece of territorial and early Montana history. Let me give you a sample of our work and what your [membership](#) will mean.



Hands-on history camp

## History you can touch

Nevada City is where history comes alive. Hundreds of volunteers provide an authentic experience of 19<sup>th</sup> century life in Montana. This “living history” program is the only one of its kind in Montana – and is recognized by the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums.

This program ignites the imagination and senses to make your visit to Nevada City real. People learn about the past—in a walk back into time.

☺ [Your Membership](#) Will Grow Our Educational Program !

## Buildings Saved and Reused

The art and science of historic building preservation is a growing business. Our preservation crew has worked on over 100 buildings to stabilize and maintain them. Some have received dramatic restoration! This is incredibly costly and methodical work.

It is ironic, that some of our best work goes unnoticed. Through detailed efforts and creative reuse of materials, preservation work is barely noticeable—and that’s how they like it.



Volunteers help replace a sill log on a preservation project

☺ [Your Membership](#) Will Protect More Buildings!



BEFORE

DURING



Careful preservation of the Daems house means it keeps most of its original siding and character.

AFTER



## The Story is in the Collections

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Restored 1910  
Gypsy fortune teller

Charles and Sue Bovey saved Virginia & Nevada Cities from disappearing, and they were passionate collectors. We are still partially in the discovery stage as boxes are opened or archaeology is performed—we are still finding new collections that need special care. Our task is to care for and share with the public this vast collection of artifacts.

Unlike most museums, many of the items in our collection don't sit under glass. They are carefully and gently used in our concessions, living history programs, history camp and public buildings to help tell the stories of early Montana.

### ☺ [Your Membership](#) Will Preserve Our Collections

Your membership will be used to support educational or preservation projects in Virginia and Nevada Cities. It is critical we raise private funds so that we have resources to match grants and limited public funding.

**Joining Historic Virginia City** does much more than raise money. It helps us create a network of friends and supporters that can help us build a strong foundation for the future.

**I look forward to your membership and support.**

Sincerely,



Paul Reichert  
Executive Director



MHC manages the largest public collection of music machines in the Nation. Most still operate and are used by the public.

**P.S. Your membership DONATION is critical to preserving our historic sites for future generations. Please join at the membership level of our choice, thank you for helping us [share Montana history](#).**

**The state only funds about 30% of our operating budget.** The rest has to come from other sources - **This is where YOU come in.** With 248 buildings and almost 1,000,000 artifacts and collections, your membership is a commitment to keep our work going.