

# **HISTORIC MOON-RANDOLPH HOMESTEAD**

## **2020 SUMMER INTERN POSITION**

1515 Spurlock Rd., Missoula, Montana, 59802

[www.moonrandolphhomestead.org](http://www.moonrandolphhomestead.org)

### **DETAILED POSITION DESCRIPTION**

#### **PROJECT #1: Archive Moon Cabin Artifacts**

##### Significance

Between April and June 1889, Ray and Luella Moon had constructed a two room, shed-roofed cabin on their quarter section claim under the Homestead Act. This is the oldest building on site. It was rehabilitated in the early 2000s. Caretaker, Caitlin DeSilvey, archived artifacts found throughout the homestead in cardboard boxes in the Moon Cabin. There are grocery lists from the early 1900s, several sets of eyeglasses, seed catalogues, egg cartons, among other items. In each cardboard box, Caitlyn included paper documents carefully cataloguing the artifacts found within.

##### Current status

In the years since Caitlyn's archival project, those cardboard boxes were easily accessed by rodents. Some of the artifacts deteriorated and others were destroyed. Some of the paper documents cataloguing the artifacts were lost or damaged. A UM student began documenting and re-archiving the remaining artifacts, but the project was never finished.

Last year, the MRH Intern worked with the City's Historic Preservation Officer to transfer the remaining artifacts and archival documents into metal filing cabinets where they'd be protected from future rodent damage.

##### Objectives

- Meet with Julie Tompkins, a Moon Randolph Homestead volunteer, who has great familiarity with the archives in the Moon Cabin
- Photograph and catalogue artifacts in Moon Cabin filing cabinets, gleaning what information remains from the original archival documents
- Once assessed, organize artifacts in filing cabinets
- Create digitized archive of artifact photos, labels, and descriptions
- Give digitized files to the Missoula Historic Preservation Office

#### **PROJECT #2: Curate Randolph House Kitchen**

##### Significance

It is likely that George and Helen Moon built the central gable-roofed house in the early 1900s. During the time that the Randolph's lived in this home (from 1907-1946), there were several additions and improvements. You can imagine a home painted red and nestled in the gully surrounded by Emma Randolph's flower gardens. When the Randolph's built and moved into the Ranch house (where the caretakers now live), the Randolph house became more of a storage area. Within are several boxes of jars, easily viewed from the northside windows. Some of these jars still contain dry beans.

##### Philosophy of Curation at the Homestead

One of the unique features of the homestead is that many of its buildings and fences are left unmanaged. This is not a site where restored historic buildings are plopped onto neatly trimmed lawns and curated to a particular

day in the site's existence. Instead, this site celebrates various uses of each building through time. Indeed, its unkempt nature, what Caitlyn referred to as "curated decay," contributes to the site's draw. The lack of signage inspires curiosity and exploration from children and adults alike. On almost every Saturday tour, visitors to the homestead will begin talking about their grandparents.

#### Current status

At present, the house remains structurally unsafe for frequent public entry. While visitors can peer into its windows, it is difficult for visitor to see what is inside, especially in the kitchen.

#### Objectives

- Remove empty (non-historic) boxes from Randolph House
- Retain storage-feeling of the north-east windows—focus active curation on kitchen
- Install a light in the kitchen for tour guides to use on tours
- Curate artifacts in kitchen to be illuminated and visible from the kitchen door window

#### **ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### Meet with Caretakers: 1h/week

- Establish schedule with Caretakers
- Review work plans and progress
- Check in about additional resources, needs, questions, etc.

##### Saturday Tours: 12h/month

- Establish schedule with Caretakers
- Give tours on two open Saturdays/month in June, July, and August

##### Homestead Camp: 2h/week

- Give tours to homestead campers on Monday mornings
- Coordinate with camp counselors to host an artifact show-and-tell with campers for an hour/week

#### **ANCILLARY DUTIES**

##### Attend Meetings as appropriate and desired

- Homestead Steering Committee meetings
- Historic Preservation Commission meetings
- Homestead Citizens Advocacy Group meetings

##### Aid in daily Homestead duties as appropriate and desired

- Maintaining the historic fruit orchard and garden
- Caring for Homestead livestock
- And other related tasks as needed

Curate displays as time allows for the

- Milk Shed,
- Tack Shed, or
- Root Cellar