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Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference
University of Colorado Boulder

Out of sight in the hills north of Missoula, Montana, the City Parks and Recreation Department and the North Missoula Community Development Corporation maintain the Moon Randolph Homestead historic site. Ray and Luella Moon claimed their 160 acres as homesteaders in 1889. Theirs was a small farm that required grueling work to maintain. The Moons sold the land to their relatives, who later sold the property to the Randolph family. The Randolphs and their descendants lived on the homestead until the 1990s, when the City of Missoula purchased the property.

The interpretation of the site seeks to communicate that romantic narratives of large, successful ranches are not indicative of the homesteading experience. I will spend the summer of 2019 as the Interpretation, Education, and Outreach intern for the Moon Randolph Homestead historic site in Missoula, Montana. This paper will reflect on the Homestead as a public history site and my experience as an intern. I will detail my work related to organizing the site's archive and revising the interpretive signs throughout the Homestead buildings, particularly the recently restored winch shed. I expect to engage with the challenges of operating a site that is not highly visible and operates with public hours limited to one day per week seasonally (Saturdays from May to October). I hope to offer commentary on public history work on the ground to consider contemporary issues in the field and consider the attainable goals of similar sites.