



Historians At Home

Snapshots of COVID-19

The Heritage Alliance has been saving and sharing the region's history for twenty years. Our institution collects, preserves, and shares the stories of ordinary people in order to help make sense of the past. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, we cannot help but think back to earlier crises that devastated our communities like the nineteenth century cholera outbreaks and the 1918 epidemic of the Spanish flu. These critical periods provide context for understanding the COVID-19 response today. Most importantly,

looking to our past reaffirms the resiliency of the human spirit and our ability to persevere.

As historians, we work hard to preserve meaningful, factual, and personal stories that will help future generations understand this irregular moment in time. In response to COVID-19, we are beginning this process right now with the inaugural "Historians at Home" program. "Historians at Home" is a rapid response project focused on archiving the lived experience of the COVID-19 epidemic.



“Everyman, His Own Historian”

Some of the most incredible historical materials come out of experiences of adversity. We are asking the public to help us crowdsource a collective record of this unique experience. Please send us a letter, containing your personal stories and points of view, regarding how this pandemic is affecting your life. Whether you are enduring self-quarantine from your couch, struggling to maintain family or social connections through “social distancing,” or facing challenges as you continue working through the crisis, we want to hear it all. Your story is important because it is your own, and we want your voice to be represented in our collection for the benefit of generations to come. Please email your submissions, as well as a completed Written Release, to historiansathome@gmail.com. Or you can mail your letter and release to The Heritage Alliance at 212 E. Sabine Drive, Jonesborough, TN 37659. Thank you for helping us to preserve this moment in time by being a historian at home!

Getting Started

Questions To Consider...

- ☐ When you first learned about COVID-19, what were your thoughts about it? How have your thoughts changed since then?
- ☐ What issues have most concerned you about the COVID-19 pandemic?
- ☐ What has it been like in your community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic?
- ☐ Has COVID-19 affected your job? In what ways?
- ☐ What concerns do you have about the effects of COVID-19 on your employment and the economy more broadly?
- ☐ How has COVID-19 affected you and/or your family's day-to-day activities?
- ☐ Has the COVID-19 outbreak affected how you associate and communicate with friends and family? In what ways?
- ☐ What have been the biggest challenges that you have faced during the COVID-19 outbreak?
- ☐ What have you, your family, and friends done for recreation during COVID-19?
- ☐ How has the COVID-19 outbreak affected your community?
- ☐ How are people around you responding to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- ☐ Has COVID-19 changed your relationships with family, friends, and community? In what ways?
- ☐ What have been your primary sources of news during the pandemic?
- ☐ What do you think are important issues that the media may be or is not covering?
- ☐ How have municipal leaders and government officials in your community responded to the outbreak?
- ☐ Do you have any thoughts on how local, state, or federal leaders are responding to the crisis differently?
- ☐ Knowing what you know now, what do you think that individuals, communities, or governments need to keep in mind for the future?
- ☐ What do you think you will remember about COVID-19 in the future?

Written Release

We Need Your Permission

Full Name of Contributor:

Address:

Phone:

Date:

Can you tell us a little more about yourself? (Optional)

Age:

Gender:

Race:

Occupation:

Where are you originally from:

Anything else?

Acknowledgement

I understand that this letter is part of scholarly research by the Heritage Alliance. The Heritage Alliance engages in historical education, including publications, exhibitions, presentations, and the production of digital content. By signing, I acknowledge that the Heritage Alliance has my permission to use my story in their educational efforts.

I give permission for the following (check all that apply):

- ☐ May be used for educational and research purposes at the above institution
- ☐ May include my name
- ☐ May be included in a school publication or exhibit
- ☐ May be included in another educational, nonprofit publication or exhibit
- ☐ May be used but DO NOT include my name
- ☐ May be deposited in a local, state or regional archive
- ☐ Other (please describe) _____

Signature of Contributor

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian if Contributor Is a Minor

Date