

NEMA 2020 Annual Conference

COVID-19 Collecting in New England Sarah Rooker, Erica Donnis, and Paul Carnahan

Tell us about your projects!

Organization name: Norwich Historical Society

Location: Norwich, VT

URL: <https://norwichhistory.org/you-are-a-witness-to-history/>

Description of project:

Individual reflection upload to Google Drive; Art mural project with reflections

Organization name: Vermont Historical Society

Location: state-wide

URL: <https://covid-19.digitalvermont.org/>

Description of project:

Omeka-based, crowd-sourced digital archive of Vermont's and Vermonter's experience with the pandemic

Organization name: Dartmouth College

Location:

URL: <https://alumni.dartmouth.edu/dartmouth-location-kids-dive-living-history>

Description of project:

Leslie Butler and Robert Bonner, both professors in the Department of History at Dartmouth, share what history is and specifically about how historians do their work, and how we learn and write about the past. When historians answer questions about the past, they often put answers in the form of a story. Become a historian today and share your own story.

Organization name: Southern Vermont Arts Center

Location: Manchester, VT

URL: exhibition website still under development - will be on our org's website soon!

<https://www.svac.org/>

Description of project: *Unmasked: Artful Responses to the Pandemic* is an in-person exhibition that will run from Jan 16 - March 28, 2021. It will explore how various pandemic-related challenges have had catalyzing effects on artists' output during this period of uncertainty. Through cultivating creativity, these artists demonstrate new ways of processing, documenting, and even transcending aspects of this crisis. The exhibition will feature individual artists as well as some group projects.

Organization name: Lexington Historical Society

Location: Lexington, MA

URL: <https://www.lexingtonhistory.org/covid19history.html>

Description of project: Right now, Lexington, along with the rest of the world, is in the midst of a challenging time in its history. As a society and as individuals, these challenges of daily life are being met in unique and often highly creative ways. For the benefit of future generations, it's imperative that we capture this moment in Lexington's history as fully as we can, thereby creating a compilation of "What Life Was Like" during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020.

Lexington Historical Society is pleased to launch our newest collecting initiative: "What Life Was Like in Lexington: The COVID-19 Project." We hope to document this period in Lexington's history so that future generations can better understand the scenario that we find ourselves in and how it will continue to shape us, both as a community and as individuals. One day, future researchers will look to us to learn more about this time in history and how Lexington residents experienced and were impacted by it.

Organization name: Historic New England

Location: Sites throughout New England

URL: <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/a-time-to-remember/>

Description of project:

Historic New England is committed to recording and documenting how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting people's lives at home. For many, the traditional idea of home means comfort, a place for support, personal expression, and relaxation. For others, it can mean discomfort, a place of hunger, fear, and danger.

Home in the midst of COVID-19 can also mean school, office, entertainment center, and hospice. The crisis and its financial impact may result in the loss of home for many. We want to know how your home life has changed because of the pandemic.

We want to hear your stories about home life and COVID-19. We hope that by selecting from the options below you will contribute your insights and items. These will help Historic New England tell the story of this unprecedented time for generations to come.

Organization name: Harvard University Archives, Harvard Library

Location: Cambridge, MA

URL: <https://covid19.archives.harvard.edu/>

Description of project: The COVID-19 Community Archiving Project has been created by the [Harvard University Archives](https://www.harvard.edu/archives/) to document the broad Harvard community's experience of this event.

Organization name: Historic Northampton

Location: Northampton, MA

URL: <https://www.historicnorthampton.org/submit-your-covid-story.html>

Description of project: Historic Northampton is collecting community members photos, writing, and artwork reflecting how COVID-19 has affected their lives and the community.

Organization name: Connecticut Historical Society

Location: Hartford, CT

URL: <https://chs.org/covidinct/>

Description of project: We are currently living through history! We need your help to document what is going on in your homes, at your jobs, and in communities across Connecticut. We want to hear your story. We want to know how you and your family are experiencing the current pandemic and “new normal.” / Eso nos trae al día de hoy. ¡Actualmente estamos viviendo momentos históricos! Necesitamos su ayuda para documentar lo que está sucediendo en sus hogares, en sus trabajos y en las comunidades de todo el estado de Connecticut. Queremos escuchar su historia. Queremos saber cómo usted y su familia están viviendo la pandemia actual y la “nueva normalidad”.

Organization name: Madison Historical Society

Location: Madison, CT

URL: <https://www.madisonhistory.org/pandemic-documentary/>

Description of project:

Organization name: Framingham History Center

Location: Framingham, MA

URL: <https://framinghamhistory.org/covid19/>

Description of project: We created a digital line-a-day journal template inspired by some old journals in our collections, often where farmers or gentleman recorded their lives in just a sentence or two a day. We also put a form on our website for submission of photographs. It was just as important to us that we give our community an outlet for expression and processing a challenging time as it was that we develop a way of collecting their experiences for posterity. We also hope to collect physical artifacts of the pandemic more actively when that is possible.

Organization name: J.V. Fletcher Library

Location: Westford, MA

URL: <https://westfordlibrary.org/research/covid-19-digital-archive/>

Description of project: The library is collecting a digital archive of community members' experiences of the COVID-19 Pandemic in real time. More info on the linked page above.

Organization name: New London Landmarks

Location: New London, CT

URL: <https://www.newlondonlandmarks.org/>

Description of project:

Organization name: Westport Museum

Location: Westport, CT

URL: <https://westporthistory.org/westport-in-focus/>

Description of project: