

**Weds. 3/25:** Grey and rainy today. Another day spent indoors, mainly watching Netflix, playing video games, and doing reading for Dr. Broyld's class on Thursday. The lockdown continues to expand, it seems all but grocery stores and gas stations are pretty much closed. This crisis must be a real boon to the home entertainment industry, while crushing pretty much everything else. CRM is closed for the foreseeable future, who knows when we will reopen. I consider myself lucky to be getting paid for my meager weekly hours while the museum is shuttered, though I know lots of people are struggling financially right now. The pace of infection continues to grow, today New York reported over 25,000 cases present in the state. Also today, the world passed a morbid milestone with global deaths from the virus reaching 20,000.

**Thurs 3/26:** Again spent most of the day inside, reading for tonight's online class and watching Netflix. Didn't eat much today for some reason, though had a nice dinner made by Mom. Class was from 5 to 7 online, there were a few hiccups and the connection wasn't great but by and large it seemed to work. Still no substitute for being there in person. It was nice to see all my classmates and Dr. Broyld too. Dr. B seems to think the semester should just be wrapped up, which I sort of agree with. Obviously we have plenty of time for reading etc. but with libraries, historical societies and museums shuttered it makes research difficult...not to mention the Sword of Damocles in the form of Covid hanging over everyone's head. Even after things get back to normal (which I hope they will) this pandemic will have a huge effect on policy and society at large in the years hence. One of my classmates mentioned he thought he had come down with Covid the week before, but was unable to get tested for it due to the lack of tests. Thankfully he's recovered but it is scary that our so called 'best healthcare system in the world' can be at such a loss so quickly. Every day it seems like the news gets worse.

**Fri 3/27:** Beautiful Spring day today. Mainly played videogames and watched Netflix again, they must be one of the few companies doing well in all of this. Went for a long walk in the early evening on the old road running through the Winthrop section of Cockaponset, it's amazing how serene everything is despite (because of?) the pandemic and lockdown. Heard the woman from Clinton who came down with covid died, making her the first fatality in the lower river valley/central shoreline. I'm sure more will come.

**Sat. 3/28:** cloudy AM, rainy afternoon. Did not do much today. Spent a fair amount of time reading/posting on my favorite forums, it's nice to have an online community to go to when you can't go out into the world.

**Mon. 3/30:** worked on paper for class tomorrow, on Mystic Seaport's online presence. Took another walk at Cockaponset. Heard a case of Covid was confirmed in Deep River.

**Weds 4/1:** Today's April Fools Day, though I'm not sure how many people are playing pranks. Class last night was nice, everyone seems to be doing about as well as can be hoped. Dr. Coronado is very supportive. Other than class, sat around most of the day and didn't do much. Food supplies starting to reach point where we need to think about shopping.

Read an interesting article about funerals in the time of Covid: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-52106863>

**Fri. 4/3:** Another rainy day. Sitting inside is getting boring. I've been trying to take a hike at least every other day, with mixed success. It is a beautiful time of year to be out in nature, everything is really

starting to bloom. Soon it should be warm enough to go kayaking, which I look forward to. Every day New York's daily death toll rises. Over 3,000 deaths confirmed to date, just in NY. Trump seems to be taking the pandemic more seriously than he was just a week ago. Talked to my friend Erik who has four kids, he is an essential employee at Yale and still has to work so his wife is home to deal with the online schooling. I'm lucky not to have to deal with that, what an adjustment it must be. Watched *Are You Being Served?* on Prime.

**Sun. 4/5:** Had groceries delivered today. First time we've ever done that. Boris Johnson hospitalized with covid today. Some good news from New York, which saw its first drop in daily reported cases. Tried to work on paper for Dr. Broyld's class but having trouble concentrating, even more than usual.

**Tues. 4/7:** Had class with Dr. Coronado tonight. I'm not a huge fan of online classes but managing to get by. It's so hard to have a conversation online. Everyone's doing their best though.

**Thurs. 4/9:** The last two days I've been working on a paper for Museum Studies. I'm finding it really difficult to concentrate on any sort of reading or writing at the moment. Even doing these journals is tough. All I want to do is vegetate and not think about the world. Today was grey and rainy, had some torrential thunderstorms come through. My mom went grocery shopping today for the first time in weeks- says everyone was wearing masks and gloves. At least people are taking this seriously.

**Sat 4/11:** Not much done today. Watched movies and played videogames yet again. Today the death toll in the US reached the highest of any country effected, breaking 20,000. Rained all day yesterday, and is cold but sunny today. Everything is in bloom now, but Chester remains quiet.

**Monday 4/13:** Trump gave a pretty crazy press conference today, attacking the media and airing a campaign style video. The man has no shame.

**Weds 4/15** - Took a walk in Cockaponset today. It's nice to have plenty of spots nearby one can walk without running into other people. Death toll in NY jumped by 3,000 due to the inclusion of probable deaths. Trying to do coursework but man am I having trouble focusing. Wondering if there will be any jobs in history after all this, market was already pretty competitive.

**Friday 4/17:** Again not much to report. This is a quieter apocalypse than most people expected, I'll bet. Cases seem to be stabilizing in New York. Protests have been taking place this week in a few states against the lockdown restrictions.

**Sunday 4/19:** Death Toll topped 41,000 in US today—doubled from 20k last week. Haven't seen any friends in weeks. Found out a long time volunteer at the Museum I work at, Tim Ryan, died with coronavirus. He had heart issues before but came down with corona in the hospital and that finished him off. The first person I know to pass away from this thing.

**Tues 4/21:** Had class with Dr. Coronado tonight. Not much to report. Death toll continues to increase, and people continue to protest the lockdown.

**Thurs 4/23:** had Museum Studies class with Dr. Broyld. Dr. B told us he lost his aunt to covid 19 this week. He was obviously flustered and distracted during class, I feel really bad for him. Not being able to get together with family to grieve is just another terrible thing about this pandemic. It's bad enough losing someone close to you, but to not be able to get together with family and friends to mourn is just awful.

**Fri. 4.24:** found out I was laid off today. Understandable but hard to take all the same. Joining the queue for unemployment. I know I'm luckier than most. The museum obviously has no need for desk staff and tour guides with no visitors. Though I understand it's still a moral blow. Hopefully the museum will be OK to reopen when the quarantine passes...but who knows.

**Sat. 4/25:** Worldwide Covid deaths top 200,000. I wonder if this will be a new yearly occurrence like the flu. Lots of experts seem to be saying so. Things are quiet as ever in Chester.

**Fri. 5/1:** It's been another long week. The rain has seemed more frequent than usual, rainy season though it may be. Finally received my stimulus check today, which along with my tax return helps a lot. If I had to pay rent I'd probably be screwed. Online class once or twice a week is really the only time I've been interacting with anyone other than my mom, who I live with. I've received my first unemployment payment, ironically significantly more than I made at the museum. I'd still prefer to have my job back though.