



**Lewis County Historical Society**  
[lewiscountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lewiscountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)  
(315) 376-8957

***“Lewis County in the Time of Corona”***  
***Pandemic History Collection Project – Instructions and Questionnaires***

Dear Lewis County community members:

We are living through a moment in time that will go down as historic! The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is reshaping our daily lives and those of our communities. In the future, people will look back on this period and learn from our experiences. That is why it is so important to begin recording the history of this pandemic and its effect on Lewis County and our people and communities. What is happening to us right now must not be forgotten in the future – and so we need to document our experiences so that they can inform the response to future crises.

The Lewis County Historical Society wants to record your witness-to-history experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic, whether through completing the questionnaires below or through your own videos, photos, recordings, art, songs, oral histories, journals, diaries, sealed letters to as yet unborn generations, and other writings that will help tell the story of this novel coronavirus pandemic.

We are looking to have you tell us what you are experiencing. How are you feeling? What are you hearing and seeing around you? What are you doing, and what effect is this having on you, your family, your neighbors, and your community? How is your life different now than it was before the pandemic began? And we are not just looking for an immediate point-in-time response, as your views and reflections today may be very different from your views some months from now and depending on how long this pandemic continues.

We are less interested in actually getting your information from you right now – and more interested in getting you to start writing down your thoughts and memorializing your

reflections and information. Take and keep pictures and videos; start a diary or a journal; interview and record the views of your family members.

We have attempted to set forth below some questions – both for adults and for students – that might be helpful to focus your thinking. If you use those, please answer only those questions that are pertinent to you and your family and that you wish to answer. Be creative in your responses. Obviously, you can reply to those questions with just written text answers, but you can also respond with poetry, artwork, video diaries or something else. You can also take photographs and videos of what is happening around you, in your home, and in your community.

### ***Questionnaire for Adults (Non-Students)***

What is your name?

What is your address?

What is your email address?

What is the date you are filing this out?

What is your age?

What is your occupation?

Do you live in Lewis County, NY?

What village or town do you live in?

What were your thoughts when the first Covid-19 cases were being diagnosed in China? Did you expect the virus to spread to the US?

What were your thoughts when the first Covid-19 case was diagnosed in this County, and then New York State and then in Lewis County?

How has your behavior changed since the media first started reporting the spread of Covid-19? Did you continue your everyday activities? Did you start stockpiling groceries and toilet paper? Did you start washing your hands or using sanitizer more frequently? How have you practiced social distancing?

How have things changed for you and/or your family since the outbreak? Are you or people you know working from home? Do you have/know children who need to do schoolwork from home? How are you/they dealing with that?

Are you a business owner who has had to close or an employee who has been laid off? If your business/employer is still open, how have you had to adjust how you and/or your business operates? If you are still working, what precautions are being taken?

How has the County government and community organizations responded to the crisis? What have you noticed that has changed in the community since the outbreak? What has surprised you most?

What is the worst thing about this? Are there any “silver linings” in what has happened (spending more time with family, catching up on tasks around the house, reading, doing projects, being outside more, etc.)?

Pretend it is the year 2050 and another pandemic is looming – what would you tell someone who has just asked what it was like to live through the 2020 pandemic? How would you suggest they handle what is about to come? What did officials/community/you do (or not do) in 2020 that those in 2050 might consider doing differently?

Is there anything else you would like to add that hasn't already been discussed above?

### ***Questionnaire for Students***

What grade are you in?

Who do you live with?

Does anyone living with you leave the house for work?

Does anyone you live with work from home?

Did anyone you live with become unemployed because of COVID-19?

Do you see anyone who doesn't live at your house?

How do you get groceries/food?

Do you eat the same foods as usual?

What format are you using to learn the things you had been while in school?

Do you feel as if you are presently learning as much as you do when in school?

Does anyone help you with your school work?

What other things keep you busy during this time?

Are you enjoying doing things differently?

Have you started a new hobby?

How did you spend Easter?

Was Easter different than last year?

Did your family change plans for Spring Break?

Are you worried about anything specific?

What is your favorite thing about staying at home all the time?

What is your least favorite thing about staying home all the time?

Do you communicate in some way with family or friends that don't live with you?

***Collecting Your Information for Preservation by the Lewis County Historical Society***

At some point, we are going to want to collect the originals or copies of the materials you create to memorialize this period.

Over the next few months, we hope to develop both an online and physical collections process that will be easy for people to use – particularly with respect to digital images, videos, etc. Please watch our website and Facebook sites for more information about that.

Obviously, in the meantime, you can always mail anything to the Historical Society at the address below:

Lewis County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 446  
7552 S. State Street  
Lowville, NY 13367

In addition, you can email us at [lewiscountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lewiscountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) and let us know what kinds of information you would like to share with us, and we will be in touch with you to figure out a way to collect it. You can also email us at the address above, or call us at (315) 376-8957, just to tell us you would like to participate in this project or to give us suggestions about it.