

PGTPL COVID-19 Pandemic Oral History Transcript

Interviewees: David and Kiley Brinker

Date: October 4, 2020

Location: Plainfield, Indiana

Abstract: David and Kiley are Plainfield residents who were married during the pandemic and they talk about that experience. David works at Plainfield Public Library.

D: Hi, I'm Dave, the Tie Guy, Brinker. It is Sunday, October 4, 2020.

K: My name is Kylie Brinker. I am David's wife.

D: We live here in Plainfield, Indiana. We first learned about COVID-19 in about February. February 15, it was starting to become a big thing, and we weren't sure what was going on. What were we most concerned about the pandemic? Just the unknown, not knowing.

K: Mainly just contracting it in some way and not being aware of it, I believe they call that asymptomatic, and passing it on to those who would have a harder time being able to recover from the virus.

D: It has affected our jobs, at least my job. We were closed at the Plainfield Library for about two months, and during that time, I worked on LinkedIn Learning, using different tools and recordings, and stuff like that.

K: I work at the Indiana State Library, Talking Books Division, so mostly that's just customer service, basically, so I ended up working from home for the next three months after everything shut down. I'm still working from home now, actually, at least three days a week.

D: COVID-19 has not really affected our day-to-day lives; I mean we're masking up and using hand sanitizer, but when we go out and have fun, we've been going to State Parks, because when you're on the trails, you're able to social distance.

K: And the virus doesn't spread as much when you are outside, as long as you social distance.

D: We were going to get married on May 24, 2020, but...

K: Actually, it was May 23, but we ended up getting married on May 22, which was a Friday, at the Danville Courthouse; it was a very small ceremony. And then later, we decided to have a reception where we all masked up and invited everybody who wanted to come, and we held a traditional wedding ceremony on September 12, 2020.

D: We had 72 people there. It was at the old Interurban Depot here in Plainfield. People around us are doing well. They're wearing masks. I've seen very few people disregard the severity of the virus.

K: Concerning "self-isolation" and "flattening the curve", we're very tired of hearing those phrases.

D: Oh my, yes.

K: So, we basically mainly stayed home, we stayed away from people, except family. We tried to stay around family. In a lot of ways, I feel like COVID-19 is affecting people's mental and physical health, by not being able to socially interact as much, not being able to be able to touch and kiss as much as they used to, and handshakes as well. Physically, I think it's caused a lot of people to feel like they have the virus, but of course the virus is a lot like allergies, so you don't really know what you have unless you get a test.

D: In the future, I think we're going to become more health-conscious when it comes to washing hands, and not as much shaking hands, maybe greeting people in other ways, like giving a nod or saying hello verbally.

K: Concerning the government's role in the pandemic, I feel like the president has tried very hard; honestly any president would have had a very difficult time handling this pandemic. It's not any easy or sure thing, or something easy to handle. Governor Holcomb so far, as of this recording, is doing a great job. Indiana is not on the uptick like other places are right now, other states. I feel like we've been pretty fortunate overall, in that regard.

D: Knowing what I know now, I think we'll just have to wait this out. It's October right now, and we're getting close to colder weather, and we'll see what happens with people when they come indoors, viruses that still exist throughout the whole year. We'll just have to ride it out.

K: And to keep in mind in the future, I think this is a good learning point for many people, communities, governments, individuals. People seem to think that we're going to have a vaccine by the middle of 2021. Let's hope that's the case, but I do think that people should still be health-conscious, and continue some of the habits they picked up this year. And regarding the media, I feel like the media has really ramped up the fear about this, honestly. I mean, they're not really telling you the good things, they're mostly telling you the bad things, but they're just as uncertain as we are.

D: I think if we can push through this, a hundred years from now, we need to look at this and go, "This is more serious than we thought." They need to be ready for all this.

K: Considering all the advancements in technology and medicine, and everything, let's hope that what David says will be the case because, I know in 1918, people were fearful, but 100 years later, it's like it never really happened.

D: And I've spoken to people and said, "Hey, your parents were born before 1918; did they ever talk to you about this?" And I've heard them say no.

K: Overall, I think this is just something that we're going to feel for years to come.

D: Alright. Have a good day!

