



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2021)

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Describe your day on May 15, 2021. Tell us whatever you'd like at whatever length you'd like. We think future students will especially appreciate hearing about concrete details -- What can you see and hear from where you are right now? What did you do for fun today? Did you cook or eat anything special? Did you work or do chores? Who did you spend time with? What did you learn?

Today, I took off from writing my dissertation and instead helped my mom out with outdoor yard work. I got up at 8am, hopped in my mom's bed and knowing we had a long day ahead of us, bugged her until she got up. We got the coffee going, she made me avocado toast, and by about 9:30 we were outside. We planted some plants (mom's fancy tomato plant and a few seeds I won at a baby shower), weeded the front yard, relocated a few rocks around, planted a bush, and then, finally mulched. But my mom only ordered fifteen bags of mulch annnnnnd we definitely needed at least five more. So the front yard is not done...yet. No signs of cicadas yet, thank goodness, and it was a nice day to plant - little cloudy, with sun, but not too hot (unless you wore a black shirt like my dumb self did). Went inside around 2 because we needed to get beautiful to go out to dinner with Elizabeth Harig and her mom (my friends from gradeschool that we haven't seen for a bit). We drove out to Liberty Township (in Ohio), which is about forty minutes away from the Bridgetown area, but my mom doesn't mind. She things the Delhi area is going downhill quickly. This was a fancy restaurant, very on trend, farm to table stuff. I had the hamburger, not the best thing ever, but the artichoke dip was great. We all talked for awhile about what Liz is up to and how my dissertation is going and will I ever be done. We finally headed home around 9 and now mom is in her chair, I am on the couch, and Abby Boo (our dog) is right next to me. I think we will both sleep well this evening.

What do you think you'll remember most about surviving the pandemic? Tell us what whatever you'd like at whatever length you'd like. We think future students will especially appreciate memories that help them picture your life and relationships -- Have you taken up any new leisure activities in the last year, or have you changed how you eat, or cook? If you're on campus, what was it like in classrooms or dining spaces or locker rooms or offices? Have you been able to stay in touch with family or friends (including classmates and other Hanoverians)? How? What have you missed the most in the past year?

I think I will most remember how everyday seemed like groundhog day for me. I was (and still am) writing my dissertation to get a PhD in history at Purdue and every day I woke up wrote in the morning, went to exercise for an hour (run on the treadmill), showered, and then sat in my comfortable living room chair to write some more. I had decided to come back to Cincinnati from Purdue, as I had a single apartment at the time and would have gone insane had I stayed there. A few of the bright things that happened. I got to spend a lot of time with my parents, time that I never ever thought I would get. My dad and I put together a treadmill we had ordered my mom for mother's day and surprised her with it. She was over the

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moon! Dad and I got in a fun groove of coming to my mom's house and mowing her lawn for her (dad would do the mowing and I would dissertate), we called in M&M Lawn Care (my dad's name is Mark). Then we would sometimes wait around until Mom got home from work and then sit on her back porch (couldn't go inside, too risky with covid) and order a take-out meal, drink alcoholic beverages, and just chat. Those were some wonderful nights! Dad and I also went for quite a few hikes since Covid had left him unemployed by HEPACO. Lots to Shawnee lookout near Cincinnati and a few to Natural Bridge. One time we went when my sister came home and somehow I managed to have at least 50 bugs covering my legs, all of which had died from the amount of sunscreen and bug spray I had put on to keep them away. I am a bug magnet. I also had time to make some wonderful desserts, like strawberry pie, and even started coloring in the evening. My cohort from Purdue (Brett, Tyler, Bo, and Keith) is very tight so we managed to get a few late night zoom cocktails going and just chatted. I missed my guys! I liked Christmas a lot this year. Instead of going over to my Aunts for Christmas day, which always meant my dad had to go home to be alone (since my parents are divorced), he got to stay and we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas day as a family full of presents, movies, goodies, and naps. There were some downs as well. When my dad was unemployed, it took months before he even talked to a tier 1 person from KY (where he worked), eventually, like 3 months later they told him he had to apply in OH, so he did and finally, like a month after that he got his unemployment money and backpay! But dang the systems in both state were just not ready for the massive amount of layoffs. It also became like ground hog day, everything was the same. Sometimes, particularly in the winter after Christmas things got depressing. Especially, with the Jan. 6th attack on the capitol. I was in a bit of a depressed state through February just about school, my career, our democracy, my mental health (lots of migraines), and not being able to see my friends.... my roommate also didn't help. I think, now that I have the vaccine and most other people do - things will hopefully start to look up. It also helps that the sun is shining! I am looking forward to getting back out to museums, restaurants, fairs, like winterfair and summerfair swimming pools, beaches - essentially, everything that balanced out me working on the dissertation all the time.

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