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Coronavirus Song

BY STANLEY A. RANSOM

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To the Adirondack tune of "Days of '49"

Let me tell you of a virus
That began some months ago.
It began in Wuhan, China,
And with speed began to grow.
Then it spread to many countries
Then to thousands by the score.
It caused enormous sickness
And changed us forevermore.

Chorus:

COVID-19, it's all over,
Killing thousands every day!
Tho' we take such careful measures
Will it find us anyway?

See the plight of first responders
With their families safe at home,
Never daring to go back there
Telling family not to roam.
So many workers now laid off
No job, no work, no pay,

With nothing left for them to do
But stay at home all day.

Repeat Chorus

Every city in the country
Has felt the virus sting,
And the hospitals are crowded
With those expiring.
So, we obey the cautions,
Staying home with Zoom to talk,
And masks are one requirement
When we're out to take a walk.

Repeat Chorus

There are now two million people
Tested with the virus strain.
We are searching for a vaccine
But high death counts still remain.
With gatherings forbidden,
Games and sports are never seen.
And the children's education
Comes from looking at a screen.

Repeat Chorus

We have gotten back together
With our families one by one,
And with Zoom we play together
And invent ways to have fun.
And we turn to other pleasures,
Try to link up with a friend,
But we hope Coronavirus
Will soon be at an end.

Repeat Chorus

DAYS OF '49

I'm old Tom Moore from the bum-mer's shore, In the good old gol- den days. They
call me a bum-mer and a gin sot to, but what cares I for praise? I
wan- der a- round from town to town, Just like a ro- ving sign, And the peo- ple all say, "There
goes Tom Moore, of the days of for- ty- nine!" In the days of old, in the days of gold, How
of- times I re- pine For the days of old when we dug up the gold, in the days of for- ty- nine.

Stanley Austin Ransom, Jr., has long been involved in the research, collection, preservation and promotion of the history and folklore of New York State. For more than 65 years, he has also been a folk singer, playing guitar, hammered dulcimer, mandolin, and autoharp. His stage name is "The Connecticut Peddler," and his website is www.stanransom.com. Stan is also a professional storyteller and a member of the National Storytelling Institute. Stan originated Black Poetry Day, celebrated nationally each year on October 17, on the birthday of Jupiter Hammon, a slave poet, who lived north of Huntington from 1711–1805, to honor the first Black in America to publish his own verse. Plattsburgh State University, where Stan is a member of the Black Poetry Day Committee, has invited noted Black poets to read their poetry on campus for the past 34 years. He has authored *America's First Black Poet: Jupiter Hammon of Long Island* (Outskirts Press, 2020). Stan and his wife, Christina, have been Co-Chairs, since 2000, of the Battle of Plattsburgh "Kid's Games," teaching 40 children's games played in 1814. Photo by Christina Ransom.



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