

# Canarsie Courier

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**East Flatbush**

## Kids Take A Step Back Into History

**By D. Rybstein**

Saturday was Farmhouse Family Day at the historic Wyckoff House Museum, 5816 Clarendon Road. Kids of all ages learned to weave, got to try on wooden shoes and played with centuries-old toys.

The property and structures on the lot are a time capsule of 17th-, 18th- and 19th-century farming life in the New World.

According to museum historians, in April 1637, a young man named Pieter

Claesen arrived on American shores in what was then the Dutch-controlled colony of New Netherland. By 1652, Pieter and his wife Grietje had acquired a farm in the newly established community of Nieuw Amersfoort in what would eventually become the borough of Brooklyn.

After the English assumed control of New Netherland, Pieter Claesen chose the last name, Wyckhof. There is no record of Pieter's parentage, but there is substantial evidence that he

chose the name Wyckhof in recognition of a farm by the same name outside of Marienhafte, Germany, where his family were likely tenants. Over the years, the name morphed to Wyckoff.

Wyckoffs occupied the site for eight successive generations until 1901, when the land and house were sold to developers.

After more than a half-century of disrepair and a devastating fire, the house was restored in 1982 and opened to the public as a museum.

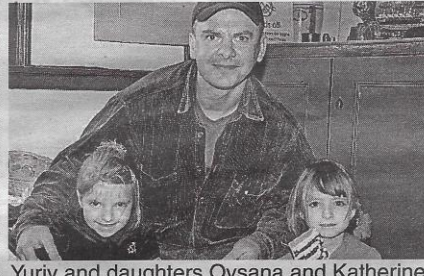
*Photos by Arthur De Gaeta*



Gwendolyn Baldini and Sophia Weinberger weaving together.



Isaac Wise trying on wooden shoes.



Yuriy and daughters Ovsana and Katherine Andronyk working together with their weaves.



Kids playing with wooden toys from centuries ago.



Wyckoff House Museum.