

# HISTORIC WICOFF HOUSE MUSEUM NEWS BULLETIN

## UPDATES >

### VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

You can still complete the Middlesex County History Hunt!

You will search the websites of several history museums throughout the county to find answers to the scavenger hunt questions. Anyone under 18 who completes the game can choose their prize at the end.

To get started, go to our website and click [History Hunt](#) at the top!



Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund



Our second annual kids' Book and Craft Club runs from February to May. This program is free and suitable for kids about 8-12.

Participants will read/discuss historical fiction & create crafts based on the books.

Register: [tinyurl.com/bookcrafts22](https://tinyurl.com/bookcrafts22)

#### Contact the Museum:

[museum@plainsboronj.com](mailto:museum@plainsboronj.com)  
[www.wicoffhouseplainsboro.com](http://www.wicoffhouseplainsboro.com)  
609-799-0909 ext 1709  
641 Plainsboro Road  
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

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## EVENTS >

### WINTER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

In December, we collaborated with the Plainsboro Police and Fire Departments and the Rescue Squad for our second annual **SnowFest** event. Museum visitors enjoyed spending the holidays with our heroes as they made snow-inspired crafts and completed new museum scavenger hunts.

To celebrate the new year in January, we hosted our first **Sankranti** event! Museum visitors flew kites and made rangolis. **Join us for our next free community event!**



## MUSEUM >

### WEBSITE BLOG: TRAINS IN PLAINSBORO

By Renee Stemcovski, Museum Archivist

In 1862 the first train went through Plainsboro along the single-track Camden and Amboy Railroad. The increased demand for trains during the Civil War led to the expansion of this line and the construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Plainsboro. In 1873, the Camden and Amboy Railroad was expanded further to three tracks.

Passenger trains stopped daily at Plainsboro Station until sometime around 1914, and the brick station building was demolished in 1969. Today the nearest train stop is at Princeton Junction on New Jersey Transit and Amtrak's Northeast Corridor Line, which passes through but does not stop in Plainsboro on the old route of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

In 1948, a railroad bridge was constructed over Schalk's Crossing Road. Previous to this, vehicles would cross directly over the tracks after the Gate Tender lifted the gates, which were normally left down for the trains. Notable Gate Tenders at this intersection include George Titus, Gus Wiggins, and a man named Preno. These workers held shifts between 7:00 am and 11:00 pm. During the night, the gates were lifted, allowing people to cross at their own risk.



To read the rest of this post and others, visit the museum website blog at: [www.wicoffhouseplainsboro.com/blog](http://www.wicoffhouseplainsboro.com/blog)