

Women's rights park to show photo display on slave cemetery

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SENECA FALLS — William Floyd is considered a founding father of the United States, a general who served under George Washington.

Born in 1734, he died in 1821. Floyd represented New York in the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia, where he put his signature on the Declaration of Independence in July 1776.

The William Floyd Estate in New York City is part of the National Park Service, which commissioned New York photographer Xiomara (pronounced SEE-oh-Mah-ro) to put together “The Other Side — Charles, Caesar, Harry, Sam, Pompey, Lon and Isaac,” a series of photographs about the slave cemetery on Floyd’s estate.

The Women’s Rights National Historical Park will present the solo exhibition of 12 large prints from July 1 to Aug. 31 at the park’s 136 Fall St. visitor center’s second-floor gallery. It is the first artistic photographic collection to examine the slave cemetery at the William Floyd Estate.

The photographs show the undated wooden crosses of the little-known slave cemetery on Floyd’s estate. The crosses bear general slave names and are set apart on the other side of a fence from the elaborate individualized stones of the Floyd family cemetery.

The exhibition is intended by the artist to serve as a spiritual memorial to the laborers, both enslaved persons and paid servants of color, who worked on Floyd’s plantation.

In addition, the crosses, put in place sometime in the 1870s, represent, in part, the Floyd family's evolution from slave ownership to active military service in the Union Army during the Civil War.

For gallery visiting hours, call (315) 568-0024. A free print and limited edition exhibit e-book can be downloaded at www.xiomaro.com.