



Regions

Search

[site map](#) | [blogs](#) | [forums](#) | [lotus notes](#) | [InsideHELP](#) | [quicklinks](#) | [phonebook](#) | [systems](#)

[InsideNPS](#) > [Regions](#) >

Northeast Region

- Home
- Programs by ARD (Associate Regional Directors)
- Contacts
- News
- Training
- Events Calendar
- Job Announcements
- Index
- Annual Reporting Requirements Calendar
- NER News Clips
- Help Wanted
- NERO Organizational Chart
- NER Programs and Functions
- Regional Maps
- Interactive Map
- Northeast Region Correspondence
- People of the Northeast Region
- Regional Director/Senior Staff Location Calendar
- Regional Policy, SOPs, WASO Policy Interpretation
- Yellow Pages and Sharepoint Directories
- Feedback



"America's Cradle" Begins With William Floyd

(Click picture for story)

C2A Today:

[Inspiring "Project Write" Presentation](#) at Independence National Historical Park exemplifies [C2A #2: Step by Step](#), [#4: In My Back Yard](#), [#7: Next Generation Stewards](#), and [#10: Arts Afire!](#)

Hyde Park Trail connects the three units of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. [Click here for a downloadable map!](#) Great [C2A #6: Take a Hike](#), [Call me in the Morning](#) and [#17: Go Digital](#).

Visitors will be able to see authentic recreations of WWII Allied and German army camps, thanks to Metz Donation, at Eisenhower National Historic Site during the [Eisenhower WWII Weekend](#) in September! Great [C2A #3: History Lesson](#), [#4: In My Back Yard](#), and [#19: Out With the Old](#).

Continue to submit your park's success stories to the [A Call to Action](#) website. It's currently the only central location to track all parks and programs responding to the call.



Headlines

Search

[site map](#) | [help](#) | [blogs](#) | [forums](#) | [bison connect](#) | [quick links](#) | [phonebook](#) | [systems](#)

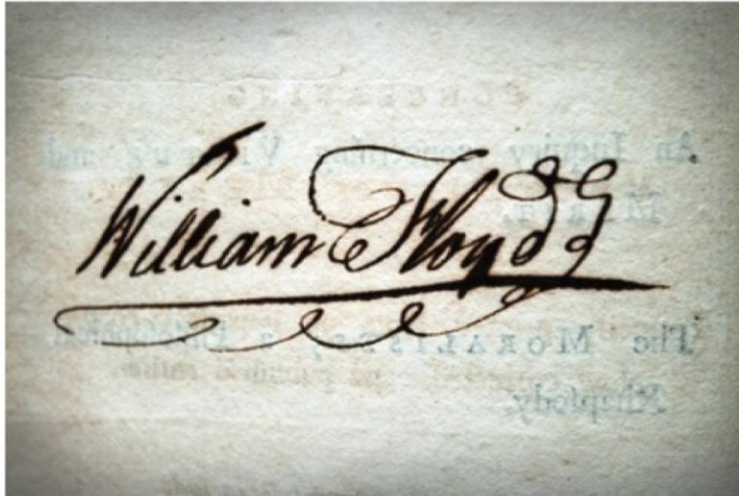
[InsideNPS](#) > [Regions](#) > [Northeast Region](#)

"America's Cradle" Begins With William Floyd

By [Lorin Diaz](#)

215-597-1782

August 19, 2013



"My favorite is the close-up of Floyd's signature from inside a book, which I think represents the project as a whole. There's nothing more personal than his signature, which also appears on this country's most important document – the Declaration of Independence." Photo by Xiomaro

[Print This Article](#)
 [E-Mail This Article](#)

Related Stories

- [The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation hosts a Workshop on Sustainable Landscape Maintenance](#)
- [Boston Harbor Islands Expands Universal Accessibility](#)
- [Mather Building Arts and Craftsmanship High School Faculty Learn about Landscape Preservation from Branching Out Youth](#)
- [Inspiring "Project Write" Presentation at Independence National Historical Park](#)
- [NPS Publishes Official Handbook On War of 1812](#)

The Northeast Region gained an incredible friend when Weir Farm National Historic Site (WEFA) selected photographer Xiomaro (or Xio for short, pronounced *SEE-oh*) as their 2011 artist-in-residence. Since then Xio's portfolio has grown to include images captured at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (SAHI) and Fire Island National Seashore (FIIS) as well. Although the three sites might not share similar chronologies, Xio points out unique ties that tell a larger regional story through his 28-photo exhibit at the Northeast Regional Office entitled [America's Cradle- Historic Houses of the Northeast](#), which marks the country's rise from a colony to a nascent republic.

While at WEFA, Xio photographed artist Julian Alden Weir's home and studio as well as Mahonri Young's sculpture studio. This project led Xio to photograph Theodore Roosevelt's summer home at SAHI, when it was being emptied of its 14,000 artifacts in preparation for a 7.2 million dollar rehabilitation.

More recently, Xio visited the Northeast Regional Office (NERO) in Philadelphia to present to NERO staff examples from his latest regional project, which was at FIIS in New York, photographing William Floyd's Old Mastic House on the south shore of Long Island. William Floyd was involved in the American Revolution and was also a signer of the Declaration of Independence. William Floyd's descendants inhabited the Old Mastic House until the 1970s, which is reflected in the house in some unique ways. "There's a family growth chart in the hallway with names, dates and heights marked off representing the transition from childhood to adulthood," Xio remembered warmly. "To me, the chart also represents the span of history when America transitioned from an agrarian society to an industrialized one – and the house changed from a full-time plantation to a summertime retreat."

For example, when William Floyd was fighting the American Revolution so, too, was Nicholas Roosevelt, a distant relative of Theodore Roosevelt (TR). TR's brother, Elliot, was a friend of Julian Alden Weir and served as an usher at Weir's wedding. Xio echoed their connections by saying, "So Floyd helped found the nation while Roosevelt and Weir helped transform it into a political and cultural power, respectively."

Eighteen photographs of the Old Mastic House are on exhibit at Fraunces Tavern Museum in Manhattan entitled [Williams Floyd's Houses of Revolution](#). Xio arranged the first half of the exhibit to express an intimate sense of William Floyd as a living, breathing person that, in some ways, is not too different from any of us. "Close-ups of his snuff box and traveling liquor chest help recast Floyd and the other Founding Fathers in a more human, earthbound context in contrast to the idealized heroic poses seen in historical paintings," Xio elaborated. The photographs in the second half of the exhibit were chosen to present Old Mastic House as a microcosm of the nation. Not only did the house stand through periods of war and peace, but it also expanded, changed, and improved in tandem with the new country.

Xio commented on one photo in particular saying, "My favorite is the close-up of Floyd's signature from inside a book, which I think represents the project as a whole. There's nothing more personal than his signature, which also appears on this country's most important document – the Declaration of Independence." A free 60-page eBook with 18 photographs and bonus content can be downloaded at Xio's website: <http://www.xiomaro.com/>

Contact Information

Name: Lorin Diaz

Phone Number: 215-597-1782

Email: lorin_diaz@nps.gov