



## Secrets revealed at Floyd post Civil War exhibit

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What started out as a simple tour of the William Floyd Estate turned into a photographic memorial to the slaves and paid house servants for Xiomáro, an exhibit artist from Roslyn Heights.

In his winter exhibition, "The Other Side-Charles, Caesar, Harry, Sam, Pompey, Lon and Isaac," at the Oyster Bay Historical Society, Xiomáro displays photographs of the estate's interior and outside grounds. And many of the photographs consist of wooden crosses labeled with generic slave names, which have not been included on public tours of the house.

"I went there as a tourist, I didn't reveal who I was until maybe half way through the tour but it immediately caught my attention," Xiomáro said.

He didn't have the opportunity to see the crosses up close until he was granted a license to photograph the Floyd estate.

"It was mentioned in passing," Xiomáro recalled. "You get overwhelmed by the Floyd's family cemetery, so I never really got to see the slave cemetery on the tour."

The crosses were put up after the American Civil War to represent the Floyd family's loyalty to the Union.

"William Floyd was one of New York's biggest slave owners. The family had slaves until New York abolished slavery," said Philip Blocklyn, executive director of the Oyster Bay Historical site.

Throughout the exhibit, Xiomáro added quotes from Floyd family members expressing their feelings about slavery.

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Photos by Tony Polcano

Photographer Xiomáro's exhibit, which is a memorial to the slaves at the William Floyd Estate, is on view at the Oyster Bay Historical Society.

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"Some of it's kind of harsh," Xiomáro said. They'll refer to them in terms that are inappropriate. Later on it gets a little bit romanticized and later on towards the 60's it gets more realistic that this was a conflict in the family." Floyd represented New

York in the First Continental Congress in July of 1776 in Philadelphia, where he signed the Declaration of Independence.

"I found it to be incredibly inspiring," said Nancy Solomon, the executive director of Long Island Traditions, adding that the unre-

corded stories of the people that helped build Long Island is very valuable.

The exhibit is currently on display until March 29 at the Oyster Bay Historical Society's Angela Koenig Center in Oyster Bay, New York.