

Where Mastic History Lives On...

*Devoted to covering the rich history of the Mastic, Moriches and Shirley areas of Brookhaven Town, Long Island, NY
Site Administrator: Brad C. Shupe*



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Series: Our Forgotten Past....

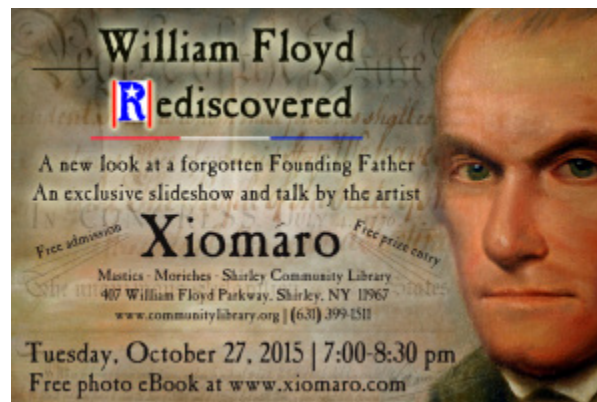
An informal series of posts regarding people, places or events that may not be well known by both the community and history buffs as well.

No. 4 **William Floyd Rediscovered**by Xio Xiomaro

I was pleased when Brad Shupe invited me to submit a guest blog piece. Each time I have exhibited my photographs of Mastic's William Floyd Estate, I better appreciate how many people are not familiar with who he is. Even those interested in history, don't always know a lot about Floyd beyond the basics: he is a signer of the Declaration of Independence and served as a General under George Washington. So I welcome every opportunity to raise awareness of Floyd and his estate, which is part of the National Park Service and open to the public.

On Tuesday, October 27th, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, I have another opportunity as a guest speaker at the Mastics – Moriches – Shirley Community Library. My talk, ***William Floyd Rediscovered***, will include a slideshow of some of the photographs that the National Park Service commissioned me to create of Old Mastic House, which was the residence of Floyd and eight generations that remained.

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Although free house tours are available to the public, the photographs add another dimension. One cannot freely walk within the residence or get too close to artifacts. With my photographs, even a seasoned visitor to Old Mastic House gets a fresh view of the rooms because I was granted access to venture past the velvet ropes. This access included areas of the house that are closed off to the public and rare objects that are kept in archival storage.

Some of the objects I will show include the few surviving items belonging to Floyd, e.g., his ceremonial sword, snuff box and traveling “medicine” chest. Other photographs escort us into areas that few outside of the Park Service get to visit: the coal room, basement and attic.

Attics in general can be interesting places to explore, let alone a historical one like at Old Mastic House. Curious items were everywhere such as old leather shoes, the remains of a hoop skirt frame and a box filled with small animal bones (pictured here).



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One item that caught my eye was this large leather collar with long metal spikes attached to a leather strap or leash (pictured below). If anyone can identify what this was used for, please post a comment below. I will be discussing this collar at my talk.



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As we get closer to the date of the talk, please check my my website where – for a limited time – you can download a free eBook containing some of the photographs that have appeared in my exhibit.

-Xiomaro

<http://www.xiomaro.com>