## The Kirk Building Glen Street

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Built in 1858 by J. Kirk & Co., a grist milling company owned by Joshua Kirk of Glen Cove, this structure was located at the south-west corner of the intersection of Glen Street (seen at the right side of the image) and Mill Street (seen at the left and center of the photograph). The building was immediately north of and adjacent to Kirk's grist mill on Mill Street.

The Glen Cove Gazette reported on 8 May 1858 that construction of this building had just begun (GC Gazette, 1858a). It was three stories tall (the first building of that height in Glen Cove) and was of brick construction. The construction superintendent was Samuel Merritt, master mason. The Glen Cove Gazette identified the lead carpenter overseeing all the wood-



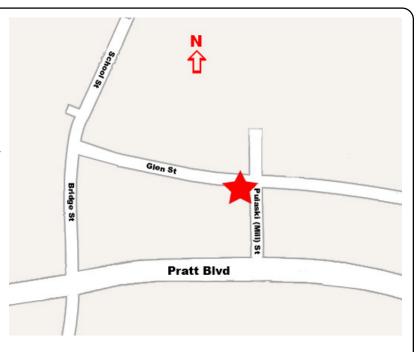
The Kirk Building, Glen Cove's first brick three storey building, as it appeared soon after opening in 1859. Photograph courtesy of the Glen Cove Public Library Robert R Coles Long island History Room; donation of Robert R Coles.

Daniel E Russell The Kirk Building

work only as "Nichols". According to the 1860 Census for Glen Cove, there were three carpenters in Glen Cove named Nichols: Samuel Nichols Sr., aged 65 in 1858; Samuel Nichols Jr., aged 33; and Charles Nichols, aged 38. It is probable that all three were related, as they lived in adjacent homes on Cottage Row.

The first floor of the building was purpose-built to house the dry goods and general grocery store of I & L F Coles (Isaac Coles and Leonard F Coles, respectively). The second floor was similarly purpose-built to house the Glen Cove Gazette, Eugene M Lincoln, publisher, inclusive of offices and printing presses for both the newspaper and book and job printing. (GC Gazette, 1858b). The third story was subdivided into general office space for lease.

On 31 July 1858, the Glen Cove Gazette announced that it was in the process of relocating to the new building (GC Gazette, 1858c) suggesting that the building was effectively complete by that date. On 7 August 1858, the editor of the Glen Cove





Gazette wrote "Our New Office is one of the most pleasant institutions of the kind on Long Island, it is well lighted, commands on the east a beautiful view of the Glen Valley and 'our gem of a Lake,' while on the north and beneath our front windows ebbs and flows the human tide..." (GC Gazette, 1858c).

Joshua Kirk was born 2 January 1812 and died 18 July 1872 and is described as being "a mill owner and farmer"; he was a member of the Society of Friends. (Cox, 1912) The 1860 US Census lists Kirk's real estate holdings as valued at \$20,000 and his personal property as valued at \$10,000. He was a Trustee of the Glen Cove School District (School District Number 5 of the Town of Oyster Bay) in 1857 (Emerson, 1879), a member of the Glen Cove Fire Department (Anon. 1867), and a Director of the Long Island North Shore Passenger And Freight Transportation Company (Anon., 1872), which owned and operated the majority of the Glen Cove to New York City steamboats after the Civil War era.

Daniel E Russell The Kirk Building

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Daniel E Russell The Kirk Building