



Mr. Jacob Wicks

### **About the Wicks Farm**

The original Wicks farm was located west of Little Neck Parkway, south of Hillside Avenue. Jacob and Christiana Wicks had 12 children born in the farmhouse that was situated on that southwest corner. Life was not easy for the early settlers of Long Island, including the Wicks family. Their last born, Harold V. Wicks was birthed in 1899. After marrying in 1925, Harold raised his family and spent his entire life in Floral Park, passing in 1970.

Around the turn of the century Jacob purchased approximately 100 acres of land in New Hyde Park; the farm abutted Hillside Ave. on the south end and Lakeville road on the east. Most of the land was covered with first-growth trees which had to be cleared so the earth could be farmed. Around 1912, the trees were cut down manually using two man saws, there were no power saws in those days. The largest stumps, which could not be excavated and pulled from the earth by a team of mules, were blown out using dynamite. The downed hardwood trees were then sawn into fireplace size logs and placed in stacks along the west side of Lakeville Road. Most of this firewood was purchased by north shore millionaires who sent scores of wagons came from their north shore estates to buy logs for burning in their multi-fireplace Gold Coast mansions.

With the trees cleared Jacob and his sons farmed the land growing mostly corn and potatoes. The Wicks farm remained operable, until about 1944-45, with Jacob's second youngest son, Clarence, running the farm during WWII.

Over the years Jacob acquired land in Floral Park which he also farmed. This secondary farm was on the eastern edge of Floral Park, north and south of the LIRR main line including that land area which is now the Floral Park Recreation Center. Jake, in his late years, donated a portion of this acreage to the Village of Floral Park with the stipulation that it could only be used for a children's playground.

The tools we are donating to the Floral Park Museum saw use on the Wicks farm. These were spared from being lost in the final auction of the Wicks farm tools by son Harold who simply stowed them away in his garage. They came into my possession upon the passing of my father, Harold Wicks and have since been saved in my barn in Cutchogue.

This brief synopsis of The Wicks farm, and these tools is, to me by my father during my growing-up years.

Harry Wicks  
Cutchogue, NY