

# Diary...

**A diary of names and dates important to growing flower bulbs in and around the Lincolnshire region.**

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|------|---|------|--|
| 1870 | The name E. Farrow Bulb Merchant of Holbeach St. Marks is recorded.   | 1929 | In season 20 tons of cut flowers leave the district by rail daily.   |
| 1880 | J. T. White and R. D. Wellband send first consignment of cut flowers to Covent Garden Market.                                     | 1931 | More than, 1500 men, women and children employed in the Bulb Industry working on more than 3000 acres of prime bulb growing land.  |
| 1885 | Elizabeth Quincey listed in Whites Directory as a Bulb Grower.  | 1932 | Groom Brothers, box makers and bulb growers become a Limited Company.  |
| 1886 | J. T. White listed in Kellys Directory as one of three Bulb Growers.  | 1934 | The first Tourists arrive by train to be taken to view the Tulip Fields by bus   |
| 1900 | Approximately 500 Acres of Bulbs of all kinds set down in this area.  | 1935 | 9000 tons of blooms sent out of the area by rail this season_  |
| 1904 | Cornelius Slooten came to England from Holland.   | 1935 | John and Len Van Geest arrive in Spalding from s'Gravenzande, their home Town in Holland travelling around the area on bicycles selling bulbs to local growers                         |
| 1907 | The introduction of the Darwin Tulip to Spalding.   | 1936 | Farrows had 3000 acres of Tulips, Daffodils Hyacinths, and Crocus Bulbs growing.   |
| 1914 | E. Farrow and Son place an advert in local Press for Bulbs for forcing purposes.  | 1936 | 2000 workers employed on 5000 thousand acres of Bulb Fields.   |
| 1919 | Otto Augustus Taylor started growing Bulbs in Holbeach.   | 1938 | O. A. Taylor Bulb Growing Company formed.  |
| 1922 | Mr & Mrs Bates started growing Bulbs in Spalding.   | 1938 | 10% of flowers moved to market by road transport.  |
| 1922 | D. Van Konynenburg came from Holland to set up The Spalding Bulb Company.   | 1939 | Cut flower trade from bulbs at its peak: 3000 tons of flowers left Spalding Station in one day packed in 375000 wooden box's (all, due to be returned empty) 12 to 1 8 bunches per box |
| 1923 | The Spalding Growers Association requested the Railways run a special train to carry Flowers to Market on Good Friday.            | 1939 | R. D. Wellband elected life member of the growers association in recognition of his work to the bulb industry.   |
| 1924 | On the death of her husband Mrs Bates carried on running the business and became a pioneer in the art of Bulb growing.            | 1939 | 10,000 acres of Daffodils, Narcissus, Tulips and Hyacinths as well as many miscellanies Bulbs were grown in South Holland making the Industry in                                       |
| 1928 | John Thomas White received the Victoria Medal from The Royal Horticultural Society for his development work in the Bulb Industry. |      |  |

- Great Britain almost self sufficient and without imports when due to the outbreak of World War 2 the Board of Trade slashed production to less than 25% of normal out put and the forcing of bulbs for flowers was forbidden,
- 1940 Lincolnshire Growers sent 4 million flower bulbs to America to pay for armament.
- 1943 Bulb Growing down to 915 acres.
- 1949 Golden Harvest, Fortune and Carlton Daffodil Bulbs imported from Holland to build up stocks after the War.
- 1949 10,000 visitors come to see the Tulip fields.
- 1950 Paul Harts corner created in Spalding, the fore runner of Springfields Gardens
- 1958 The first Tulip Parade.
- 1960 Carlo Naeff a Dutch Man suggested sending flowers to market in bud rather than in full flower
- 1961 Mrs. Bates died having made the Darwin Tulip her life's work.
- 1964 Lingarden a growers co-operative is formed.
- 1965 4000 acres of daffodils, 3000 acres of tulips and 130 acres of forcing house used to force flowers,
- 1965 100,000 people thought to have been to the Now World Famous Tulip Parade.
- 1966 Springfields Gardens open to the public.
- 1966 Spalding Bulb Company have 3000 acres of bulbs set 500 of which are tulips with 500 employees in full time work plus casual labour in season.
- 1967 Geest take over The Spalding Bulb Company.
- 1968 Geest now the biggest bulb growers in the district having also taken over J.T. White and Hortico Bulb Company.
- 70/71 Lingarden Exports started to Europe
- 1975 10.000 acres of Bulbs grown in the area but only about 200 acres of Tulips, this went down over the next decade to almost nil but daffodils to this day are grown in great numbers in South Holland.
- 1985 Geest stop Horticultural Operations selling Hortico, Spalding Bulb Co and Stassons mail order to Bakker Holland
- 1985 Taylors Bulbs awarded Royal Warrant to Her Majesty the Queen
- 1992 Walkers Bulbs purchased by Taylors
- 1995 New Spalding Bulb Auction open in Pinchbeck
- 1995 The need for a Flower Bulb Museum in the area was realised by Alan J. Davey and George F. Slinger and was opened by them in this year.
- 2002 Springfields close for re-development
- 2004 Springfields Garden revamp opens
- 2005 The Daffodil Industry flourishes but only some 20 acres of Tulips are grown by F. Dring and Sons in the main for decorating the Flower. Parade Floats having taken over This task from Robin Chappel.
- 2006 April — Springfields celebrate 40 years