

JOHN L. CHILDS DIES ON CENTRAL TRAIN

Noted Floriculturist and Founder of Floral Park, L. I., Expires in His Sleep.

FRIEND OF JOHN BURROUGHS

Ex-State Senator Supplied 25,000 Gladioli Daily to New York Market in Summer.

Returning from his annual pilgrimage to his floral farm at South Pasadena, Cal., John Lewis Childs, founder of Floral Park, Long Island, one of the largest dealers in and growers of flower and vegetable seeds for commercial purposes, died in his sleep in his berth on a Pullman on a New York Central train from Albany yesterday morning. His death was not discovered until the porter went to arouse him upon the arrival of the train in this city. When he retired Friday night, Mr. Childs was apparently in his usual good health, according to his brother-in-law, Arthur H. Goldsmith.

The body was removed yesterday afternoon to the home on Tulip Avenue, Floral Park, and the funeral, which will be private, will be held there at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning. The interment will be in Greenfield Cemetery, in Hempstead.

Mr. Childs was in the sixty-fifth year of his age. He was about 17 years old when he came to Long Island and took a position with a florist. After working for a year, he leased a few acres of ground and began a seed business on his own account, being one of the first to enter this field. He lived in a small room over a store in the village, which was then known as East Hinsdale, and had only a few inhabitants. His first seed catalogue contained eight pages and there were only 600 copies printed.

It was from this beginning that his present enormous seed and flower business developed. Within fifteen years from the beginning Mr. Childs's name was known around the world. He was one of the first seedmen to use whole page advertisements in magazines and periodicals. The name of the village was changed from East Hinsdale to Floral Park, and Mr. Childs served as the first President of the village after it was incorporated. He later served a second term in the same capacity. He was State Senator in 1894 and was twice defeated for Congress on the Republican ticket.

Twice a year Mr. Childs issued a seed catalogue which had a circulation in recent years of more than half a million copies. He was the founder of *The Mayflower*, a monthly magazine devoted to floriculture, horticulture and agriculture, which at present has a circulation of more than 500,000, going to all parts of the world. Mr. Childs disposed of his printing interests, including *The Mayflower*, about a year ago, because he wanted to be free to devote more of his time to the public schools of his town and throughout Long Island.

He is said to have had one of the largest collections of birds and bird eggs in this country, gathered from all parts of the world. John Burroughs, the naturalist, was a close friend of Mr. Childs and frequently visited him at Floral Park.

Some years ago Mr. Childs sold most of his property in Floral Park and purchased 800 acres in Suffolk County, which he named Floral Field.

One hundred acres of the 800 was planted in gladioli, and every day during two months in the Summer 25,000 of these were cut and brought to New York City.