

William Chaplin did not live in Sudbourne, but at Rose Hill House in Farnham (some 10 miles away). He was probably a bachelor, unless his wife died before the 1841 Census. At the time the 1851 census was taken, he had two live-in servants and employed one labourer on his 25 acres at Sudbourne. However he may have employed casual labour at other times of the year. By the 1861 Census he described himself as ‘retired farmer’, but he had appointed Robert Howard to oversee his land at Sudbourne. William died in April 1882 and was buried at Sudbourne. An advertisement in the *Ipswich Journal* of 29 April gives notice that the contents of his house at Farnham were to be auctioned by Flick and Son, Saxmundham, and garden tools and bedding plants appear in the schedule along with his furniture. A week later the house itself was advertised for sale and the ‘desirable residence’ included ‘an excellent garden’.

Here, perhaps, we have a clue to the function of the curious ‘geometrical wood’. All the evidence points to William Chaplin being a keen gardener and perhaps a garden designer. The ‘geometrical wood’ could have been a plant nursery, supplying the large country houses at Sudbourne, Rendlesham, Little Glemham and elsewhere. The 1841 ‘plantings’ may indicate the beginnings of a change into growing trees for sale.

What happened to the Sudbourne land after his death is not known. But it is possible that his ownership of the wood was remembered, and Captain’s Wood a corruption of Chaplin’s Wood.

Vic Harrup

Appendix

Apportionment from the section of the Sudbourne Tithe Map reproduced on p3.

<u>Tithe No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>rods</u>	<u>perches</u>
691	Arable	arable	1	2	0
692	Planting	wood	2	0	0
693	do	do	1	1	13
694	do	do	1	1	27
695	do	do	0	3	23
696	Arable	arable	3	3	6
697	planting	wood	1	0	3
698	Arable	arable	1	3	24
699	Drift	pasture	0	1	10
700	Planting	wood	4	1	22
701	Arable	arable	1	1	1
702	Planting	wood	0	1	33
703	Whin pasture	pasture	2	1	2

Total 22 acres, 2 rods and 4 perches.

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Sources:

Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich): Sudbourne Tithe Map FDA 246/A1/1b, Tithe Apportionment FDA 246/A1/1a; Sudbourne Common Enclosure Award B150/1/7.4; Norden Survey EE5/11/1; Wills of Francis Smith IC/AA1/242/63 and Richard Chaplin IC/AA1/252/71.

Tom Williamson, *Sandlands*, Windgather Press, 2005, pp80, 82-3.