Finally, although Richard was to marry Elizabeth Ablit more than three years after he gave up his smuggling activities, it is doubtful whether this was because his was a disreputable trade. More likely he saw how 'the branch of Smuggling', as he called it, was in decline and he wanted to use his profits in another way. So now we can answer the questions asked at the start of this article. The source of Richard's wealth was smuggling, and the Earl Soham surgeon was wrong when he declared that nobody became rich through that pursuit.

Vic Harrup

Sources, all in the Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich)

Sudbourne parish registers and 1841 and 1851 Census records. William Goodwin's Diary, Volume 1, ref. HD 365/1. Ipswich Journal dated 2 August 1785. Iken Manor Court Book ref. V7/3/4. Mortgage, Richard Chaplin and John Hunt, miller, ref. EE5/6/168. Map of Cowton Farm by Isaac Johnson, 1813, ref. HD11:475/98.

Addendum to the history of Captain's Wood (Bulletin 6, p1)

Colbye's (or Colbie's) Wood

On John Norden's 1601 map of the estates of Sir Michael Stanhope the northern part of today's Captain's Wood is marked 'Late Colbye's Wood' (see Bulletin 6, p1).

The last Prior of Butley, Thomas Manning, died in 1544 having been made Suffragan Bishop of Ipswich just before the Dissolution (see Bulletin 7, p15). Several perquisites came his way as a result of the bishopric and he bequeathed, from the profits of Mendham Manor, the sum of 40 shillings a year to his servant Thomas Colbye 'for his time and diligent service'. This, or a related Colbye, may be the person who gave his name to the wood.

Other possible candidates are Thomas Colbie esquire, brother of Christopher Colbie of Kelsale who made his will in 1579. Christopher left Thomas his 'gold ring with a blue diamond which I usually wear upon my thumb'. Another Thomas Colbie rebuilt Roos Hall, Beccles in 1583.

In 1601 the wood which had been occupied by Colbye was in the hands of the Lord of the Manor, Sir Michael Stanhope, and it appears to have been identified by the name of the next occupier soon afterwards. In 1607 one of Sir Michael's bailiffs, Nicholas Baldwyn, recorded the sale of wood which had been 'felled within the Manor of Sudbourne that doth adjoin to Fatter's Wood'. Robert Fatter leased the sheepwalks seen on Norden's map encompassing 'Colbie's Wood' on three sides.

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