

No birth has been found for George, James, David or their father, John (using Family Search).

Nothing definite on Family Search for marriage Mary Brand & John Chaplin & nothing for birth of David Chaplin c 1700.

The following have checked for Chaplin, Brain/Brand but without success:

History of Laurencekirk, A.R. Fraser. Arbuthnot MIs. Aberdeen Journal Notes and Quotes Vol 1-6. Arbuthnot, George Clark Suttie. Annals of Arbuthnott parts 1 & 2. The Mearns of Old, Crabb Watt. Baron Court of Urie 1604-1747. Memorials of Angus & the Mearns, Jervise. Dictionary of National Biography. Scottish Nation, Anderson. Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen, Ed. Chalmers.

A search of wills at PRO between 1721 and 1735 revealed none for George Chaplin.

Forfar Reg of Sasines 1700 – 1781(RS stands for Register of Sasines)

Chaplin

Of Colliston, James, brother of George C, merchant, Kingston, Jamaica

RS. 35/14 page 59,61

RS.35/17 page 510 ... son of James Chaplin thereof

RS. 35/17 page 510 563

RS. 35/20 page 55

David, mariner, London

RS.35/14 page 59

RS. 35/17 page 510 George, merchant, Kingston, Jamaica

RS.35/13, page 301, 302

RS. 35/14 page 59

RS.35/17 page 510 John, in Johnston, father of George Chaplin, merchant, Kingston, Jamaica: his relicit see Brand, Mary

Brand, Mary, relicit of John Chaplin in Johnstone, father of George Chaplin, merchant, Kingston, Jamaica.

RS. 35/14 page 59

RS. 35/14 seen 19/5/03 Latin. 35/17 and 35/20 seen 16/6/03 also in Latin. Couldn't find the correct document in 35/20!

Johnston – a seat with extensive view in Laurencekirk parish, Kincardineshire.

Arbuthnot Between Fordun and Bervie, Kincardineshire.

Some notes from RS. 35/14:

At Dundie the fourt of Octo jajvij & and twentie six years betwixt the hours of ten and eleven....

Infavorem dicti Jacobi Chaplin.... Corfirmavit predicto Jacobo Chaplin et heredibus masculus de ejus corpore procread seuproerfand quibus deficien' Guiliemo Chaplin apothecario in villa vocat Kirktown de Arbuthnot et ediam fratri germane diet quond Georgij et herodibus masculis de corpore did' Guiliem quimbus deficien David Chaplin navigatori in Londino alio? Fratri germano dict' quond Georgij et heredibus masculis de corpore dict' Davidis

Procreat sem procrfind quibus deficien proquiribus et legitimus haredibus masculis dicti' magistri georgij Chaplin

From RS 35/13 301 A good clear document. Possibly worth buying a copy?  
At Dundee 14<sup>th</sup> July 1721 (jaj vij& and twenty one years) Granted by Dr John Gordon doctor of medicine on 19<sup>th</sup> June to Mr George Chaplin... in fee blench for payment of a penny scots money upon the ground of the said lands at the term of Whitsunday in the name of blench ferm...

Index of Taillies 1688-1833

No	Vol	Fol	Date of Taille	Date of regifn.	Entail name & lands
193	6	223	27 July 1721	11 June 1724	Chapline (George) merchant in Jamaica – Lands and Barony of Collieston, & others Forfar.

Register of Tailzies (A good clear document).  
RT 1/6/224-229. Some notes:

11 June 1724 Anent the petition given in and presented to the lords of council and session at the instance of Alexander Strachan of Tarry .....Deed of Settlement and Tailzie ....

The heirs of my own body which failing to James Chaplin then in Johnston my brother german and heirs male of his body which also failing to William Chaplin apothecary at the Kirk of Arbuthnott also my brother german and heirs male of his body which failing to David Chaplin mariner in London likewise my brother german and heirs heirs male of his body which failing to my nearest and lawful heirs. Reserving to John Chaplin in Johnston my father and Mary Brain his spouse my mother and longest liver of them the manour place or house and garden of Collieston and ane annuity or @rent of 300 merks scots money....

All haill my lands and barony of Collieston comprehending the town and lands of Collieston overmeadows and west meadow thereof (otherwise called the wet meadow and Collieston meadow) with the miln of the same miln lands multure sucken and sequells thereof with a just proportion of as much of the firth of Aberbrothock as doeth belong to the said lands of Collieston together with the mannoir place of Collieston with the houses biggins yards tofts crofts mosses muirs parts pendicles and pertinents of the said land miln and others above written as also with the superiority of that croft called Guthries Croft or Guthrie Hill within the parish of St. Vigeans Lordship and Regality of Aberbrothock and Sheriffdom of Forfar. ....All and haill the lands of Newgrange miln, miln lands multure, suckens, sequells y<sup>f</sup>of with the manour place, houses biggins yards mosses, muirs, tofts, crofts parts pendicles and pertinents y<sup>f</sup>of .....

Dispone to the said James Chaplin his heirs and assignees ... All and Sundry Merchant Goods, Chatles, Slaves, Plantations Household furnishings Gold and Silver coined and uncoined, Jewels, Silverplate and all other Moveable goods and Gear y<sup>f</sup>for

in Great Brittain Jamaica or any other part presently belonging to me. To William Chaplin 4000 merks Scots money. To David Chaplin 4000 merks Scots money. To Mary Wood my niece and lawful daughter procreat betwixt John Wood sometime in Forfar and the deceasat Mary Chaplin my sister german 1000 merks money forsaied. To Alexander Strachan of Tarrie 900 merks. To Jean Chaplin my sister german spouse to James Mason in Fetteresso 2000 merks in liferent then to her children. To Christian Chaplin my sister german and spouse to David Glog in Stricathrow 2000 merks in liferent then divided among her children. To Janet Chaplin my sister german 2000 merks in liferent then divided among her children. To Elizabeth Chaplin my sister german relicit to David John Hamilton in Dunbar 2000 merks...

In witness whereof I have subscribed these presents on this and the preceeding six pages of stamped paper (written by John Spencer Clerk of Montrose) att Bristol in Great Brittain the twenty seventh day of July one thousand seven hundred and twenty six years witnesses Mr Jas. Hillose merchant, Richard Mathins coper in Bristol and Paul Grampson shipmaster sic.

Subscribatur Geo Chaplin Ja: Hillose witnes Richd Mathins Paul Grampson

From Arbuthnott session records 1690-1710 CH2/16/2

June 2 1710

To George Stephen to help pay the physician for cuering of his wife hir lip 03-00-00

This would seem to indicate that the parish had both a physician and an apothecary. The paucity of entries for payments to these people probably shows that the church only paid in exceptional circumstances.

CH2/16/1 has not been looked at

CH2/16/3 (1715-1728) has:

1722 May 10 Received from Wm Chaplin for y<sup>e</sup> mortcloth to his daughter £1-13-4

Also recorded is:

1722 June 17 Received for new mortcloth from William Chaplin                      £1-13-4

It is not clear whether this is recording the same death as above or another member of the family. The record on the Chaplin stone (see below) does not mention a second death at this time. In many cases it is not recorded who paid for the mortcloth or who it was for. For this reason and from lack of time, the search was discontinued.

The accounts record both payments in cash where the headings are: £ s d and in Meal given to the poor where the headings are fir pec lip or when amounts are large e.g. where totals are given Bolls Firlots Pecks and Lippies.

The meal was usually a gift from Viscount Arbuthnott

The stone in Arbuthnott churchyard reads around the edge:

HEAR LYES JOHN MARGR / AET AND ELIZABETH LAWFULL CHILDREN  
TO WIL / LIAM CHAPLAIN / APOTHECARY AT THE KIRK OF ARBUTHNOT  
DON ANO 1726 /

The centre reads:

WC MM  
IC MC

ELIZABETH CHAPLAIN DEPA  
RTED THIS LIFE SEPTEMBER  
2 1714 AND OF HER AGE FIVE YEARS  
JOHN CHAPLAIN DEPARTED  
LIFE MARCH 12 1716 AND OF  
HIS AGE THE FIVE YEAR  
MARGARET CHAPLAIN DEPA  
RTED THIS LIFE MAY 9 1722  
AND OF HER AGE 18 YEAR

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD THAT  
DIE IN THE LORD

MEMENTO\*\*

The Baronage of Angus & Mearns by David MacGregor Peter (1856) at page 55 describes the arms of Thomas Robertson-Chaplin, Esq of Collieston, succeeded his maternal uncle George Chaplin, Esq. Of Collieston, who died issueless some years ago. This family is of Scottish origin.

Arms – Gules, a fesse neublee, counter neublee, between six billets, or. Crest – A griffin's head erased, gules, armed, or. Motto – *Labor omnia vincit* (Labour overcomes all things.)

[*Family Blazon*]

Seat – Colliston House, a modern edifice, closely embowered amid finely wooded grounds and gardens, on the east of the turnpike road, about five miles from Arbroath.

Chris Green provided the following information:

## Chaplin of Colliston

Warden (Angus or Forfarshire) vol 5, p. 125, confirms that a George Chaplin was occupying the property in 1820, but not before 1685, and that he was succeeded by his sister's son, George Robertson Chaplin.

The latter was a magistrate in 1855, and was designated 'of Colliston and Cookston' in 1860. I do not know the location of the second property. He died in 1883, and was succeeded by a Mr Peebles of Somerset House, London.

As regards to the arms quoted, there does seem to be some degree of support for the assertion that the family is of Scottish extraction. The Lyon Register for 1672-7 has, for Alexander Chaplin, W.S.,

Gules, on a fess nebuly argent, between 6 billets or, a rose slipped of the first (i.e. gules), but no crest or motto is given.

In Pont's manuscript dated 1624 (although some parts are later)

Gules, a fess nebuly argent between 6 billets or. Chaplin

While Papworth's Ordinary (which often quotes from Burke) has

Gules a fess nebuly or between 6 billets argent. Chaplin

Finally, Fairbairn's Crests gives for Chaplin of Coliston, Sco.

Crest: a griffin's head erased gules Motto: Labor omnia vincit

It is interesting that the quoted arms and crest differ slightly from Papworth and Fairbairn, which might indicate that they were not just copied from such printed sources. The term 'nebuly counter nebuly' is rarely used, but is correct, and the omission of 'argent' for the fess could be just a printer's error.

There was a family named Chappeor Chape in Norfolk who bore 'Gules a fess wavy between 6 billets argent' as early as the XV century, (Papworth), and I hazard the guess that a branch moved to Scotland at some time before 1600. The arms given by Pont would be a reasonable variant of the Norfolk arms and sufficient to distinguish the two branches. Alexander Chaplin the lawyer duly registered his arms with a difference (why a rose?), and it would be not at all unusual for the holder, and user, of the undifferenced arms not to register these in 1672.

C D Green

One line in George Chaplin's will stood out "All and Sundry Merchant Goods, Chatles, **Slaves, Plantations** Household furnishings Gold and Silver coined and uncoined, Jewels, Silverplate and all other Moveable goods and Gear". The remainder of the testament was dull, the inventory consisting of lists of George's cows, horses, harrows etc. Slaves, like plantations would be considered heritable property and would not be detailed in an inventory.

In the eighteenth century, Christians could justify slavery by denying that the slaves had any understanding of religion, love or liberty. How could you lose your liberty if you didn't know what liberty meant? Slavery made economic sense. Plantation owners in Jamaica could make immense profit from the cultivation of sugar. The labour involved was, however, too arduous for the kind of indentured servants from Britain who had gone to the American colonies under contract to work for a fixed number of years before they were free to branch out on their own. For the heavy manual work in the tropical Caribbean, you needed slaves from the tropics. That is

why planters were willing to pay eight or nine times what a slave cost on the African coast.

Sugar was the boom industry of the 18<sup>th</sup> century economy (by the 1770's sugar accounted for one-fifth of all British imports). The only way to produce it was with slaves! In the oppressive tropical climate of Jamaica, the plantation owners needed men they could literally work to death. It was said that a planter with one hundred slaves had to buy eight new slaves a year just to maintain his stock! Average life expectancy of a new arrival from Africa was less than ten years. This was the human price of sugar, the white man's white gold.

Nearly three and a half million Africans were taken to the New World as slaves, transported in British ships which sailed from Britain to Africa with cargoes of manufactured goods, took slaves from there to the West Indies and completed their voyage by bringing sugar to Britain.

Other publications confirm that George had been a successful merchant in Jamaica and that he re-purchased the estate of Collieston that the family had sold some one hundred and fifty years earlier.

“The House that Sugar Built” Donna Brewster.

Prof Tom Devine Research Professor of Scottish History Aberdeen University.

Prof Brigit Brereton University of the West Indies. “Law Justice & Empire”

Prof Karl Watson “The Civilised Island”.

Prof Alan Karras University of California, Berkeley.

Prof Geoffrey Palmer O.B.E. Herriot Watt University.

The Union of the Crowns freed Scots from trading restrictions and made them full partners in Britain's lucrative empire. Many young Scots were well educated but since the economy of Scotland was agricultural, there were no suitable openings for them and no prospects. The Colonies were therefore seen as places where you could make money and improve the circumstances of your life. All over Scotland, ambitious young men with limited opportunities at home began to consider life on distant tropical shores. As news about the West Indies spread around Scotland, many decided to seek their fortune. Among them was George Chaplin who somehow became a man of business in Kingston in Jamaica. Most of the adventurers had no intention of making permanent homes in the Caribbean. They were there to make as much money as they could as quickly as possible and to return to Scotland rich and successful. The Scots participated in the institution of slavery but this was in line with the attitudes of the day. Some became horrific slavemasters and some became good slavemasters but we have no means of telling into which category George fell. In the sixteenth & seventeenth centuries, brutality was the norm rather than the exception. Slavery was regarded as just another part of colonial life. (In 1786, Scotland's Bard, Robert Burns, who was later to write “A Man's a Man for A' That” was preparing to take up a post in Jamaica as assistant overseer of slaves. He apparently didn't see

anything wrong with being associated with a system, which is now regarded as being grossly immoral.)

George certainly made plenty of money, purchasing the estate of Collieston and having enough over to lend to Alexander Strachan of Tarric (Who was he and how was he connected?) a sum of money, which in the early twenty-first century would be worth £1.4 million in 2012. George made at least two return visits to Britain, one in 1721 and one in 1724.