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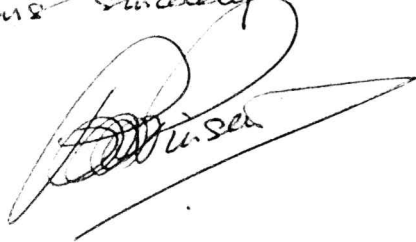
HIGHERFIELD  
HORRABRIDGE  
YELVERTON  
DEVON  
PL20 7RW

Who might be seeking a thesis subject in your department. I would, of course, be happy to put all the information that I have at his disposal.

I am hoping to be able to visit Newfoundland next summer and could bring out with me such material as I have accumulated relating both to the family farm and to Sir Robert.

I also have an original land grant of 1700 relating to fishing premises at Trinity. This was kindly photographed by Dr Alan Williams when I was in Birmingham. I think that this should be in the safe keeping of your Department and I will bring this with me also.

Yours sincerely



P. was Boston. The same Henry was recorded as being hanged at Exeter for stealing sheep in 1801. I have not yet placed this Henry.

By 1805 John and William are established in Edward St. Portman Square, and Joseph, styled Agent and Broker, is in Nicholas Lane. William, who had married Amy Richards in 1797 has his first & only son Robert John in 1818.

Here I am puzzled by your mention of another William. I can't quite see where he fits in. I know nothing, however, about any issue of John, in London, for London Parish Registers are out of my reach. I, too, have it that William died in Fegenmouth in April 1835.

Robert John, who inherited the firm was a Judge of the Court of Exchequer and a magistrate, beginning the legal conviction that his son, my grandfather, was to follow and develop.

My indication that a collection of Sir Robert's papers existed came from something written by his widow. I have a manuscript account of one of his judicial circuits and it is on record that he presented at least one paper to the Royal Society.

I do not myself feel capable of writing a biography since the source material is almost all to be found in Newfoundland, but possibly the task might be undertaken by someone

Dear robin,

I apologise deeply for the long delay in writing- I have been overwhelmed with university work this term. Many thanks for your letter of September and the family tree- it all swells our pinsent name file.

In the meantime I have come Across a few more pieces of Pinsent data.

1. one Pinsent was commanding a Teignmouth coaster in the 1750s. I have not yet been able to decide what his Christian name was.

2. one JOHN Pinsent was listed as being a SOAP BOILER OF PLYMOUTH IN THE YEARS 1779-1784.

3. IN 1791 JOHN Pinsent of Edward Street, Portman Square, London advertised a brig the MARY JEMIMA 88 TONS as being for sale in DARTMOUTH. Would be buyers were invited to contact him, the Master Captain Thomas Silly, or a mr gilbert Doke of Newton Abbott.

4. On 23 February 1789 JOHN COMMANDER of the HOPE BRIGANTINE(built at Liverpool, of 150 tons burthen) was at Plymouth. He had just brought a cargo of timber from Casco Bay, Maine which was now advertised for sale by a local broker and auctioneer John Pridham. The Vessel itself was also advertised for sale.

I tentatively plan to visit England in april 1983 and very much hope to be able to see you and dear old Dartmoor. As a matter of curiosity I also came across an advertisement for the lease of two very nice looking Horrabridge farms in 1775-6.

I trust you enjoy a pleasant Christmas and New year, and remain sincerely yours



John Pynson

Elizabeth  
- 1632

Rev. John  
1597 - 1661

Joan Fuvell

Matriculated Wadham 1616  
Vicar of Cornwood 1624  
Rector of Talaton 1626  
Sequestered during Rebellion  
Canon of Exeter Cathedral

John  
1634 -

Joanne  
1636 -

Barbara  
1637 - of Payhambury

Eleanor

Jonah  
1642 - 1723

Mary Pynsent (cousin)

William  
1687 -

Maria  
1689 -

Jonah  
1694 - 1767

Jane  
1696 -  
= 1725

Joan Pynsent  
(Cousin)

John Mathew, of Arunke,  
1688 - 1772 Chynton

John  
1720 -

Jonah  
1722 - 1793

Jane Mathew  
(Cousin)  
- 1804

Henry Mathew  
1727 - 1813 of Arunke

John Mathew  
of Tale

Jane  
- 1804

Anne White  
1834

Sarah Pratt

Jonah Pynsent  
of Talaton

Jonah Pynsent Mathew  
1794 - 1859 of Rydon House  
Talaton

Jane Pynsent Mathew  
1796 - 1882

John Mathew  
1825 - of Ralscliffe

Mary Richards of Pittman

T. T. Jenris

Charlotte Best

John Pynsent Mathew  
1824 =

Anne Mathew

Jonah Pynsent Mathew  
1825 - of Rydon

Margaret Wright of Teignton

T. Wybraut M.D.

Charles Pynsent Mathew  
1861 - Surgeon

John Walter Wright  
Pynsent Mathew

William Pynsent  
Mathew

Anne Mathew

Mary Mathew

Florence Eliza Davis

Florence Gillett

Muriel Eleanor M.

Philip M.

Maurice M.

Christopher M.

Dr. W. Harris

Dr.  
R.J.F. Pincent  
Hornbridge  
Devon

collection of

1744. (?)

Thomas. Richard.

Tom Customs. Exeter. (Handcook).

Thomas P. 1744-5 1/8 ton. Gd oil

William Puseent  
1757.

1757. Born at Pitt. S. John Puseent. 6 Feb.
1773. S. Agent at Port. de. Grave. Newfoundland.
- 1787-9. Owning land at Port. de. Grave.
1776. 79. Importing Cod oil to Teignmouth.
- 1797 (or 1803). Marries Amy?
1800. Vessel. 'William and John' wrecked. Sandwich Forts.
1805. Owns land in Cupids. Nfld. Offices in Portman Square, London, in partnership with brother John.
1810. Part owner, vessel 'Holcombe'. West Teignmouth.
1818. Birth of son, Robert John P. Port. de. Grave.
1820. Ship building at Port. de. Grave.
1826. Part owner 'Brothers' - of Edford. Wolborough.
1835. Dies at Teignmouth. Aged 78.
1841. Amy Puseent 'late of Port. de. Grave' dies.

1744 - 1780  
Thomas, Richard, William,  
John Pinsent

own Customs. Exeter

cod. oil imports into Teignmouth.

(Transcription by Gordon Handcock)

Thomas Pinsent 1744 - 5 1/8 ton  
Richard Pinsent 1774 - 5 9 tons salt  
John Pinsent 1763 - 4 1/4 T., 1769 - 20 4 T., 1774 - 5 12 T.  
1775 - 6 14 T., 1776 - 7 21 T., 1777 - 8 9 T.  
William Pinsent 1776 - 7 1/2 T. & Co., 1778 - 9 1/2 T., 1778 - 9 9 1/4 T.  
1779 - 80 7 1/2 T.

Other items

John Pinson 1769 - 70 47 hhd. staves, 1700 ft. pine board. 19 barrels tar  
52 cwt turpentine, 32 pounds deer skins.  
1774 - 5 12 hhd. staves

Notes by Gordon Handcock, Memorial University. St. Johns

There are no entries subsequent to 1780 - it appears trade was shifted elsewhere. Earliest entries - small importers of cod. oil - suggest status of bye-boat keeper rather than that of merchant. Mid 1770's the imports of wood indicate interest in shipbuilding and skins for tanning, an important industry in Newton Abbot. The latter would explain the interest in Labrador establishments.

Plantations Book. 1805 (Nfld Archives)

Conception Bay. This source shows that William Pinsent owned the following in Cupids:-

64 Northside Cupids. Cut & cleared by proprietors in 1804  
65 Northside Cupids. Cut & cleared by proprietors in 1793

cont.

66 was owned by Wm. Newcomen of Dartmouth and acquired in 1755.

and in Port de Grave

113 partpurchased from Philip Vokey for £10 1787

part purchased from John Vokey for £2. 1789

Cupids and Port de Grave would appear to have been the main location of business in Conception Bay - a subsequent marriage of Wm. to a girl from Port de Grave in 1797, and ship building there as late as the 1820's - support this view. The earliest date of acquisition of property (1789) is a rough guide to the firm establishing itself in C. B. and the arrival of William to manage the Nfld end of the trade. The pattern is familiar, and the links with Newfoundland were undoubtedly strengthened through the marriage of a local girl.



1786

Ann Penson  
Teignmouth

Register of Ships. Exeter Customs House  
1786 - 1831

25 September 1786 Liberty

73 T. rig. Coves. I.O.W.

Owners:-

Ann Penson - W. Teignmouth - Widow  
Wm. Humphreys - W. Teignmouth - Mariner

Masters:-

Geo. Sutton 1787  
Wm. Humphreys 1788

1792  
Henry Penson  
Teignmouth

Register of Ships. Exeter Customs House  
1786 - 1831

April 1792 Squid

32 Ton. Sloop. Teignmouth 1792

Owners:-

Henry Penson - J. Teignmouth - Capt.  
Wm. Cummins - J. Teignmouth - Mariner

Masters:-

Wm. Cummins 1792  
Thos. Cummins 1793

Description altered 1794

March 1794 Squid

35 Ton Schooner. Teignmouth

Owners:-

Henry Penson - J. Teignmouth - Capt.  
Wm. Cummins - Mariner

Masters:-

Thos. Cummins 1794  
Wm. Lavescroft 1795  
Wm. Cummins 1796

Wm. Cummins sole owner 1798

Fate - Sold in Ireland

1796

Joseph Pinsent

Register of Ships. Exeter Customs House  
1736 - 1831

6 April 1796 Resolution

126 T. Brig. taken from Dutch.

Owners:-

James Sege	-	Highwest	-	Carleer
Wm. Long	-	Appleton	-	Warner
Joseph Pinsent	-	London	-	Merchant

Master:-

James Sege

Seize - taken by French.

Dr Matthews.

## ORIGINS OF THE FIRM OF PINSENT in NEWFOUNDLAND

The firm was founded by William Pinsent who as a young man obtained employment with the Dartmouth Company of Messrs Newman and Roope who amongst other things, had a mercantile trade at Port De Grave, Conception Bay. William Pinsent was by 1775 acting as their agent in Port De Grave, and continued in this capacity until at least 1781. However, in 1775, his uncle, a Devonshire planter named William Carnell left him a "plantation" in Port De Grave, and in the same year he leased more ground from another Devonshire fisherman Isaac Richards. In 1787 he purchased another plantation from Philip Voekey and in 1789 bought more ground from John Hussey.

Simultaneously a relative (brother? ~~father?~~) JOHN had commenced life as a common seaman who in the early 1770s served on Dartmouth vessels involved in the Newfoundland Trade. After the end of the American Revolutionary wars John became the Master (and probably owner) of a PLYMOUTH (Devon) vessel which was not involved in the Newfoundland trade, but made most of its voyages to the Iberian Peninsula and Mediterranean as a general trader.

In 1788, like many others who sought to take advantage of a short term post-war boom in the Newfoundland trade, William and John appear to have combined together to purchase the MARY JEMIMA, a brig which was built for them in that year in Plymouth. The vessel was registered in London under the joint ownership of John and William. She was engaged solely in the Newfoundland trade as a carrier for the goods and produce of what now becomes the firm of John and William Pinsent of Port De Grave.

William continued to spend, at least the summers, in Newfoundland until 1792. He obviously spent many of the winters (as was the fashion) back in Devonshire for the firm used "winter agents" such as Peter Ezekiel during this period. In 1793, the resident family member in Port De Grave was a JOHN (son of John or William). Between 1793 and 1801, none of the family were resident permanently in Newfoundland, the business there being run by a succession of agents, of whom the longest employed was a Port De Grave man Bartholomew Corban. However, one William (the same or a son or nephew) was in Port De Grave in 1797 when (described as being of Newton Abbott) he married Amy Richards of Port De Grave, who was a relative of that Devonshire fisherman Isaac Roberts who had started off the Company by leasing land in 1775 to William Pinsent.

MEANWHILE: In England John Pinsent had been developing not just the UK end of the Newfoundland trade, but pursuing his own interests in general shipping. By 1790 he is clearly established in London (all his vessels are registered there, although the masters and crew are invariably from South Devon).

This general shipowning concern developed very rapidly. In 1800 John and William Pinsent of London are recorded as owning 9 vessels (one of which is commanded by a relative Thomas Pinsent) engaged in government transport services, the Mediterranean, Jamaica, and Oporto trades. Only two of these vessels are involved in their Newfoundland trade. All vessels were registered in London, 3 had been built in Teignmouth, 2 in Newfoundland, 1 in Hull, and the rest were prize vessels taken by the British from foreign owners.

In 1802, William (which one cannot be clearly ascertained) came out to Port De Grave as the resident partner. He was the man who in 1797 had married Amy Richards. In 1804 their property holdings in the community were increased when her father left him another fishing room, together with more property in the nearby community of Ochre Pit Cove. He remained in Newfoundland at least until 1814 when the company is styled as William Pinsent of Port De Grave Nfld., and John Pinsent of Edward Street, Portman Square, London.

William Pinsent retired to Devon at some time after 1812 and died in Teignmouth in 1835, age 78.

In the 1820s he was the senior partner in the Company and described himself as of EBFORD AND WOOLBOROUGH (Newton Abbott) merchant. His brother? John of London had died by 1826. John's administratrix was Mary Spears Pinsent of Cullompton (spinster).

However, during the 1820s another William (son of whom?) came out to Port De Grave as the Newfoundland partner. He was presumably the father of Robert John Pinsent.

In 1828 the Newfoundland firm was styled as William and Robert (R.J.) Pinsent.

Dr. K. Matthews of the Maritime History Group possesses a mass of more detailed information on this family and Company, but this is an outline of the foundation of the Company.

P.S. The descendents of the Newman family, who first employed William Pinsent in the 1770s, have until the last decade or so owned and lived in MAMHEAD PARK, Mamhead, and Widdecombe House, Stokenham parish.

Dr. Matthews and the Maritime History Group would be very interested in comparing notes with Dr. Pinsent and exchanging notes and documentation.



COMMENTS ON THE DESIRABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF A BIOGRAPHY OF SIR ROBERT PINSENT

Sir Robert Pinsent, while not one of the dominating figures of Newfoundland history, was a prominent man of his day, in the fields of Newfoundland Law and Politics.

Basic Biography as we understand it:

Born Port De Grave 1834  
Educated Harbor Grace Grammar School  
Articled to the firm of Bryan Robinson in St. John's  
Solicitor, 1855  
Barrister, 1856  
Member of the Legislative Council, 1859-1865  
Prominent Confederate  
Member of the House of Assembly for Port De Grave (as a Conservative-  
Confederate), 1865-1869  
Defeated in the Election Campaign fought on the question of Confederation,  
1869  
Re-appointed as Member of the Legislative Council, 1870-1873  
Ran as a conservative and defeated in the election of 1873  
Throughout the 1870s active in Conservative party politics  
1879 appointed to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland  
Honorary D.C.L.  
1890 K.C.M.G.  
Died Norfolk, England, 1893  
Wrote a pamphlet arguing the merits of Confederation with Canada, 1867

Although we know of no "Pinsent Papers" in Newfoundland, his position in society and politics means that there are many, if scattered, references to Pinsent to be found in Newfoundland sources. We feel that, given the lack of biographies of Newfoundland inhabitants, a biography would be most helpful. Thus such a study is feasible and desirable.

Dr. K. Matthews

K. Matthews and R. Thomas. Preliminary Inventory of Records held in the Archives of the Maritime History Group. (Memorial University, August 1978).

K. Matthews and G. Panting, Eds. Ships and Shipbuilding in the North Atlantic Region, 1978.

The Canadian Deep Sea Merchant Marine and the American Export Trade 1850-1890 (in Alexander D. and Ommer R.) Volumes not Values. Proceedings of the Third Atlantic Canada Shipping Project 1979.

"Profiles of Water Street Merchants," Maritime History Group 1979.

"Recruitment and Stability of Employment in the British Merchant Marine. The Case of C.T. Bowring and Co." (in Ommer R. and Panting G.) Working Men Who Got Wet. Proceedings of the Fourth Atlantic Canada Shipping Project 1980.

Writer of 10 articles for the Dictionary of Canadian Biography.

Consulting Editor, Canada Since Confederation. An Atlantic Perspective. Grade Nine Canadian History Text Book.

With P. Dwyer and R. Kearley, The Cultural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador, Vol. 1. Prentice-Hall, Toronto 1982.

With G. Crosbie, Index to the Name Files held in the Maritime History Group, Memorial University of Newfoundland 1981.

#### Papers Given

The last days of Poole's trade to Newfoundland. The Society of Poole Men, March 1981.

White hot marine technology of the mid nineteenth century. Marine Technology Society, May 1982.

#### Honours and Awards

Canadian Historical Association CERTIFICATE OF MERIT, 1981, Honourary Life Member in the Society of Poole Men.

#### Graduate Students Supervised

S. Ryan  
M. Chang  
J. Greene

B. Balcom  
E. Chafe (until I became ill)  
P. Mitchelmore.