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Dear Dr Matthews

As Harris has sent me your fascinating summary of the history of the family firm. This both interlocks neatly and adds considerably to my knowledge. I am grateful for the pains you have taken.

William Pinsent was born 6. Feb 1757 at Pitt Farm in the parish of Chudleigh Knighton. His father, Terlin, a prosperous farmer, had nine sons of which William was the fourth. John (b. 1753) was one of his elder brothers. Joseph, of whom more later, was his youngest brother (b. 1770).

Denton farms being small younger sons almost invariably left home, often going to sea or to London. My first evidence that the two brothers were working together was a grant of letters of Marque against the French for their ship the William & John which was later wrecked on the Sandwich Flats.

As Hambroch then found that between 1744-80 Thomas, Richard (not one of John's sons) William and John were named in relation to cod oil imports to Tergenmouth. My date for William's first appearance at Port de Grave is 1773. The picture at Tergenmouth is complicated by a Henry Pearson gent. owner of the sloop Squid. He was later part owner of the Amphitrite of which Thomas