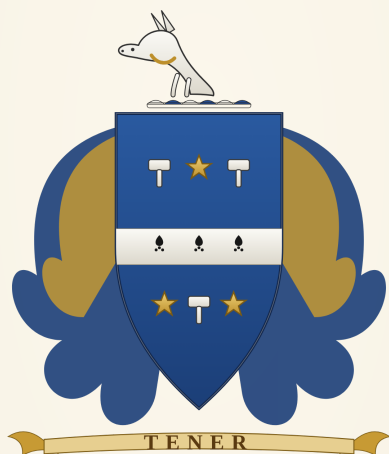




THE RECORD REDISCOVERED

*A Companion to the 1949 Tener History —
and the Story It Could Not Yet Tell*

A SEQUEL VOLUME · MMXXVI

Being a second book to *Tener: A History of the Family in France, Ireland, and America*

“The facts appear to be substantially as stated.”

SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN, CHIEF SECRETARY FOR
IRELAND,
HOUSE OF COMMONS, 26 MAY 1884

P R E F A C E

A Second Book



The 1949 family history was a good book that told a partial truth. It could hardly have been otherwise. Its author worked from what a private gentleman could reach in the nineteen-forties — family papers, letters, the recollections of the old — and from a French pedigree he had, in good faith, purchased from a professional. He could not open the parliamentary record of Westminster from his desk in New York. He could not cross-search the census of two nations in an afternoon. He could not read the sworn testimony of a Land War commission or the private letters of a Chief Secretary. We can.

This companion volume does not correct the old book — that work is done in the revised edition that accompanies it. This book does something the first could not attempt: it tells the parts of the story the 1949 author never knew, or knew and chose to leave in shadow. It is a book about two brothers on the wrong side of the Irish Land War; about a family that scattered far wider than Pittsburgh; about a woman poet the genealogies forgot; about a soldier, a forger, and a serial number. And it is, quietly, a book about method — about how a family's memory of itself can be tested, and what is gained when it is.

What follows honours the first book by finishing it.

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CHAPTER ONE



Two Brothers, Two Disgraces

*One fled a poor man's bank. One evicted a county. The family
book gave each of them a single, innocent word.*

On the twenty-sixth of May, 1884, an Irish member rose in the House of Commons to ask a question about the magistrates of County Tyrone — and a family secret that would keep for a hundred and forty years was, for anyone who cared to read the record, spoken aloud into Hansard.

The member was **Thomas Sexton**. The magistrate in question was **Hampden Evans Tener the First**, who had for years managed a charitable loan-fund bank at Moree — one of those small parish institutions that took the deposits of labourers and lent modestly to the poor. Sexton stated that Tener had, “about two years since, fled from the country, taking with him the moneys deposited in his bank by the farmers, labourers, and servants of the district.” The Chief Secretary, Sir George Trevelyan, confirmed that the facts were “substantially as stated,” and the House ordered Tener’s name struck from the Commission of the Peace.

THE RECORD THAT WOULD NOT LIE

A single hostile question in Parliament proves little by itself. What makes this one unanswerable is that a whole shelf of record systems, kept by different hands for different purposes, all agree. The **Belfast News-Letter** reports the **Provincial Bank of Ireland** foreclosing its mortgage on Moree, Allen, and Gortavale at a forced auction on 28 September 1882 — the lands “late in the occupation of Hampden E. Tener” (he was already gone), Moree House unsold for want of a bid. The Irish **valuation registers** mark the house vacant and “much dilapidated” in 1883–84; the **Land Judges’ Court** sells his remaining lands on his creditors’ petition in 1885; the **United States census** first records him resettled a year after he fled. And the **official biography of his own son** — the entry in the *National Cyclopædia of American Biography* — quietly dates the son’s emigration to 1882 and reduces the fugitive father to the neutral phrase “a land agent.”

The 1949 family history did not omit those two years; it *furnished* them — “Moree was sold,” a farm “at Stoke Dry, England,” an

The Brother Who Stayed

If Hampden's was a private disgrace — a small fund, a quiet flight, a family that never spoke of it — his brother **Edward Shaw Tener** earned a public one, and earned it at the very centre of the Irish Land War.

The 1949 book grants Edward three words: “of Portumna.” The 1911 census, which hyphenates the name to **Shaw-Tener**, calls him a land agent but does not say whose. He was the resident agent of the **Marquess of Clanricarde** — by common agreement the most hated absentee landlord in Ireland — on the Portumna estate that became one of the war's grimmest battlegrounds.

Before the **Evicted Tenants Commission of 1893**, witnesses named “Mr. Tener” as the agent who cleared holdings “with his emergency men”; who would take a evicted man back only if he also seized his ruined neighbour's farm; and who, unable to find a single local willing to work the emptied land, shipped in Protestant **planter families from Ulster** to hold it. This was not rumour. It was sworn testimony, taken down and printed by the state.

FROM THE ARCHIVE · CLONBROCK PAPERS, NLI MS 35,784

Edward Shaw Tener's own letters survive in the Clonbrock estate papers at the National Library of Ireland. Among them is his correspondence with **Arthur Balfour** — then Chief Secretary for Ireland — and with the Royal Irish Constabulary, arranging armed police protection for the sheriff's parties at the Portumna evictions of 1890–91. The agent of the county's most notorious landlord wrote directly to Dublin Castle, and Dublin Castle wrote back.

He died at Portumna on **15 November 1915**, the date now fixed to the day from the Irish will calendar — the same register in which his fugitive brother Hampden, dead in New Jersey in 1910, does not appear at all. The brother who stayed is written into the Irish record of the dead. The brother who fled vanished from it. It is as neat an epitaph as the whole story affords.

CHAPTER TWO

Three Ways to Leave a Country



The family legend held a simple thing: “the Teners left Ireland.” The record holds something better. For the six sons of **John Kinley Tener I** (1802–1879) and **Mary Frances Evans**, the legend is mostly wrong. *Four of the six brothers lived and died in Ireland.* The great emigration was not their generation at all. It was their children's.

And when men did leave, they left for reasons so different that to fold them into one word is to lose the whole meaning of the thing. Three departures stand out, and no two are alike.

- **John Kinley Tener Jr.** (1828–1917) left for *love*. Widowed in 1873, he emigrated late in life — not a young man chasing fortune, but an old one crossing an ocean to rejoin his grown children in Pittsburgh, where he died at eighty-nine.
- **The grandchildren** left for *opportunity*. When George Evans Tener died in Ireland in 1873, his widow and children sailed. They and their cousins — the messenger-boys of family legend — were driven by the collapse of the Ulster linen trade, the agricultural depression, and a Land War that was gutting the very land-agency work the family had lived by. A Pittsburgh network, with Oliver iron-and-steel jobs waiting, pulled them across.
- **Hampden Evans Tener I** left for *disgrace* — the bank fraud of the previous chapter.

Love, opportunity, disgrace. The 1949 book smoothed all three into one tidy “emigration,” and in doing so hid not only the shame but the tenderness — the widowed father following his children west is as much a part of the truth as the fugitive, and a good deal more of the

CHAPTER THREE

The Far Branches



Pittsburgh was the trunk, not the tree. Once the records of the wider world were opened, the Teners proved to have reached farther than any single family book had traced — and the branches, followed out, turn out to hold some of the family's most vivid lives.

CALIFORNIA — ISAAC W. TENER'S LINE

A whole branch of the family settled in California, descending through **Isaac W. Tener**. It is on this side of the family that the poet Frances Milne belongs — the subject of a chapter to herself.

AUSTRALIA AND ONTARIO

Other Teners went south and north: documented lines reached **Australia** and **Ontario, Canada**, carrying the name into two more of the settler dominions in the same emigrant decades that filled Pittsburgh.

THE MINING TENERS

A distinct cluster followed the ore. **Mining Teners** appear in the copper country of **Arizona** and along the iron ranges of **Minnesota** — a reminder that the family's American story is not only bankers and a governor, but working men in the extractive West.

GALWAY AND BELFAST — THE OLDER NAMES

And in Ireland itself the family did not vanish with the emigrants. The **Galway** line descending from Thomas Tener I's first marriage persisted — softening, in places, toward the spelling *Tanner* — and a **Belfast** branch carried the name on in the north. The 1949 book, fixed

CHAPTER FOUR

Frances Milne, Woman of Letters



Genealogies of the old kind followed the men. Daughters married out, changed their names, and dropped from the chart. So it is fitting that one of the most accomplished people the family produced was a woman the 1949 book never mentioned — and that we know her not from a family paper but from a national biographical dictionary of *women*.

Frances M. Milne was born in the north of Ireland on **30 June 1846**, and carried into the family's California branch a gift entirely her own. She was a **poet** — first published, as a girl, in the Cincinnati *Christian Standard*, and later writing under the pen-name “**Margaret Frances.**” Her verse appeared through the Georgist single-tax journals of the American West, for she was also that: a **reformer**, a follower of Henry George's movement for the taxation of land values, lending her pen to a cause that, in a grim irony the family could hardly have designed, stood at the opposite pole from the land-agency work that had disgraced her Irish cousins.

SOURCE · A WOMAN OF THE CENTURY (1893)

Her life is recorded in *A Woman of the Century* (Willard & Livermore, 1893), the great biographical dictionary of notable American women — the kind of source a male-line genealogy would never think to consult. It is a standing lesson: the interesting relations are often the ones the family chart drops.

One brother of the family evicted a county; a cousin, an ocean away, wrote poems for the people who worked the land. Both are Teners. A family is large enough to hold them both.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Soldier and the Serial Number



Every family keeps a war story, and the Teners keep a good one: **Hampden Frost Tener**, who is remembered as a B-17 airman of the Second World War. The 1949 book was printed too soon to tell it fully, and family memory has since done what family memory does — polished the tale smooth and, in one detail, likely wrong.

A draft-registration card for the family survives bearing the serial number “955.” It is tempting to read that as a military service number and to build the record request around it. That temptation should be resisted.

RESEARCH CAUTION · THE TWO KINDS OF NUMBER

A **draft-registration serial number** is *not* an **Army service number**. The draft serial (like “955”) was simply a man's position in his local draft board's registration sequence — a local, civilian bookkeeping number. His actual Army service number, the one that identifies his service record, was assigned separately upon induction. Requesting a serviceman's file under his draft serial will not find it. The two numbers belong to two different systems, and confusing them is the single most common error in tracing a twentieth-century American soldier.

HOW THE RECORD IS ACTUALLY OBTAINED

The service files of American veterans are held by the **National Personnel Records Center** in St. Louis. The proper key is not a number remembered on a card but a request — **Standard Form 180 (SF-180)** — filed by the veteran¹⁰ or next of kin, giving the man's name, dates of service, and branch. It is the difference between guessing at a lock and asking for the key. A separate guide to filing

CHAPTER SIX

The Forger in the French Pedigree



The most elegant pages of the 1949 book are its first — the French origin, the Huguenot flight, the ancient *le Tenneur* line of Picardy, and the handsome coat of arms that crowns the whole. They are also the pages the modern record most firmly declines to support.

We need not guess at the source; the compiler said so himself. In a travelogue of January 1935, Hampden E. Tener Jr. announced “a really wonderful discovery... the solution of the riddle of the Tener ancestry, now traced prior to 1400 A.D.” — furnished, he wrote, by “a professional genealogist, Mr. Gustave Anjou, Ph.D.... at no inconsiderable expense, some 250 pages of material.” **Gustave Anjou** (1863–1942) was among the most industrious genealogical *forgers* the trade has known, selling hundreds of American families a distinguished European ancestry fabricated to fit the customer. Professional genealogists today treat any pedigree in his manner as unproven until independently re-established from primary sources — and the Tener French line has never been so re-established.

ON THE CREST

The consequence reaches the coat of arms itself. The Tener “crest” is a twentieth-century composite, prepared by a commercial studio, the International Heraldic Institute of Washington, from a *genuine* published blazon — the arms of the le Tenneur family in Rietstap's *Armorial Général* (1887). The heraldry is real. The family's *right* to it is not: arms belong to the houses granted them, not to every bearer of a surname, and the link from le Tenneur to Tener runs straight through Anjou's forgery. And the compiler knew: on that same 1934 trip he paid the College of Arms “for a search as to whether a Tener Coat of Arms had ever been registered,” and wrote the answer down — “all with negative result.” It is a fine emblem

CHAPTER SEVEN

How the Record Was Reopened



A word, at the last, on *how* — because the method is the part a reader can carry to their own family's story.

The governing principle was simple and severe: **one hostile source proves nothing; three independent sources that agree prove almost anything.** A single accusing question in Parliament could have been malice. But when Hansard, the Irish valuation registers, the American census, and a son's own biography all place the same man's flight in the same two-year window — each kept by different people for different reasons, none aware of the others — the conclusion becomes unavoidable. Genealogists call this the interlocking of independent records, and it is the difference between a rumour and a fact.

THE SOURCES THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE

- **Hansard** — the verbatim debates of the British Parliament, now fully digitised and searchable.
- **Irish valuation and land registers** — Griffith's Valuation and its revision books, tracking who held each house, year by year.
- **The census of two nations** — the Irish returns of 1901 and 1911, and the United States federal census.
- **The Evicted Tenants Commission (1893)** — sworn, printed testimony of the Land War.
- **The Clonbrock Papers (NLI-M⁴ 35,784)** — surviving private estate correspondence.
- **The Calendar of Wills and Administrations** — fixing dates of



The Record Rediscovered was written in 2026
as a companion to the 1949 *Tener* history,
drawing every fact from the primary record and
naming its sources in the open.

It is offered in the same spirit as the first book —
affection for the family — and in one addition:
the conviction that a family is honoured best
by being known truly.

— T E N E R —