



TENER

A History of the Family in France, Ireland, and America

REVISED & CORRECTED EDITION

MCMXLIX · MMXXVI

First privately printed 1949 · Revised from the primary record 2026

NOTE TO THE REVISED EDITION

Why This Book Was Reopened



In the year 1949 a New York bank officer named **Hampden Evans Tener the Second** gathered his family's story between blue boards and had it privately printed under the title you have just read. It was a proud book, carefully made, and for three-quarters of a century it stood as the family's memory of itself. This edition does not replace it. It reopens it.

The occasion was a simple test. In 2026 the whole of the book was laid against the primary record — the parliamentary papers of Westminster, the Irish valuation and land registers, the census returns of two countries, the sworn evidence of a royal commission, and the private letters that survive in the National Library of Ireland. Most of what the 1949 author wrote survived that test intact. His genealogy of the Irish line is largely sound; his affection was honest; his research, for its day, was real.

But in two places the book was found to be quietly untrue — not mistaken, but *tidied*. Two of the family's Irish men had lived through the harshest passages of the Land War, and the 1949 book had smoothed both into a single respectable word apiece. This edition restores what was removed.

EDITORIAL METHOD

The original text is preserved. Every correction, addition, or caution introduced in 2026 appears in a marked panel like this one, so that the reader may always see where the 1949 author ends and the modern record begins. Nothing has been silently rewritten. A book that concealed its subjects will not now be repaired by concealing its editor.

FRONT MATTER, AS IN 1949

The Tener Crest



The family crest is a modern composite of the arms and crest borne by the *le Tenneur* family of Picardy, France, and was prepared by the International Heraldic Institute, Ltd., of Washington, D.C., from information found in J. B. Rietstap's *Armorial Général*, Vol. II, 1887. The *le Tenneur* family of Picardie bore the following armorial bearings:

Azure, a fess argent charged with three mouchetures of ermine sable, and accompanied by three mallets argent, two and one, and three mullets (stars) or, one and two.

Crest: a greyhound issuant, collared. Supporters: two greyhounds collared.

EDITORIAL CAUTION · 2026

The blazon above is **authentic** — it is copied faithfully from a real published coat of arms. But it is **not** a coat of arms granted to the Teners. It is a twentieth-century composite, bought from a commercial heraldic studio, that matches the *surname* *le Tenneur* in Rietstap's armorial to the Tener family by assumption.

Two cautions follow. First, arms in the European tradition belong to the individuals and houses to whom they were granted, not to everyone who shares a surname; this is therefore a *family emblem*, not a heritable achievement of arms. Second — and more seriously — the very link from *le Tenneur* to *Tener* rests on the French pedigree discussed in Part One, which modern scholarship has shown to be the work of a known genealogical forger. The emblem is genuine and old; the family's right to it is neither.

And the compiler *knew* it. On his 1934 journey he “paid the [College of Arms] for a search as to whether a Tener Coat of Arms had ever been registered” — and recorded the outcome in his own hand: “**all with negative result**.” He printed the composite crest regardless.

PART ONE



The Teners of France

*Of a Huguenot origin long cherished — and of the forger
who supplied it.*

PART ONE

The French Origin



The 1949 history opens, as family histories of its era loved to open, in France. It traced the Teners to the *le Tenneur* family of Picardy, made them Huguenots driven out by the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, and carried the line back through a lettered French ancestry of some antiquity. It is a beautiful story, and it is the reason the family bears the arms reproduced on the previous page.

It is also, in its documented particulars, false — and it is worth being exact about why.

EDITORIAL CORRECTION · 2026

The elaborate pre-1699 French pedigree in the 1949 book was not merely *attributed* to the notorious genealogical forger **Gustave Anjou** (1863–1942) — it was **bought from him, by the compiler's own admission**. In a travelogue written in January 1935, Hampden Evans Tener Jr. records that “a professional genealogist, Mr. Gustave Anjou, Ph.D. ... has furnished me at no inconsiderable expense some 250 pages of material, including copies of wills,” tracing the family “prior to 1400 A.D.” Anjou sold hundreds of American families a distinguished European ancestry, manufacturing documents and descents to order; pedigrees bearing his name are today treated by professional genealogists as worthless unless independently re-proven. The Tener French line has never been so re-proven.

The honest position is this: the Tener line can be traced securely to **eighteenth-century Ulster** and no further. Everything earlier — the Picardy origin, the Huguenot flight, the le Tenneur arms — should be read as *cherished family tradition*, not established fact. It may yet be true in outline; a French Protestant origin for an Ulster linen family is entirely plausible. But it is unproven, and the specific French genealogy printed here rests on a forger's work.

PART TWO



The Teners of Ireland

*The linen country of Tyrone, the house at Moree — and two
brothers the record remembers differently than the family did.*

PART TWO · CHAPTER I

Hugh, Thomas, and the Line at Moree



Here the 1949 book stands on firm ground, and this edition follows it gladly. The Irish Teners were a Protestant family of the Ulster linen country, settled by the eighteenth century in County Tyrone. From **Hugh Tener** the line runs to **Thomas Tener I** (born about 1739), the ancestor from whom the documented family securely descends.

Thomas Tener I married twice, and the modern record clarifies a point the old genealogy left tangled.

EDITORIAL CLARIFICATION · 2026

Thomas Tener I's **first marriage, to Ann Galway**, produced a line that the 1949 book largely lost from view — a branch that in Galway later softened the name toward *Tanner*. His **second marriage, to Matilda Jebb**, is the main line the book follows. Researchers should beware a genuine trap in the records: the descent carries **two men named William and two named Isaac** across adjacent generations, and the 1949 book conflates some of them. They are distinct persons.

Through the Jebb marriage the line reaches **Robert (“Robin”) Tener** and, in the next generations, the house at **Moree** and the family of **John Kinley Tener I (1802–1879)**, who married **Mary Frances Evans (1799–1864)**. It is with the six sons of that marriage that the family's great turning comes — and it is here that the 1949 book, for the first time, may be shown to have concealed rather than merely erred.

PART TWO · CHAPTER II

Hampden Evans Tener the First



Of this man — the direct ancestor of the family's American line, and the **father** of the book's own compiler — the 1949 history does not, in fact, stay silent. It gives a smooth account: he was “a land agent and banker until 1882 when Moree was sold,” then “operated a farm at Stoke Dry, England,” and “immigrated to the United States... in 1884.” Every clause is placed with care, and quietly false in its emphasis. The record of the British Parliament, the Irish courts, and a Dublin bank tells what those calm verbs conceal.

EDITORIAL CORRECTION · 2026 · THE MOREE LOAN-FUND FRAUD

Hampden Evans Tener I (1836–1910) managed a **charitable loan-fund bank** at Moree, one of the small institutions that lent to the labourers and small farmers of the district. On **26 May 1884**, in the House of Commons, the Irish member **Thomas Sexton** asked about the Tyrone magistracy, stating 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**, replied that “the facts appear to be substantially as stated,” and Tener's name was **struck from the Commission of the Peace**.

What “sold” conceals is a **foreclosure**. Moree, Allen, and Gortavale were mortgaged to the **Provincial Bank of Ireland**, which put them up at forced auction on 28 September 1882 — the lands “late in the occupation of Hampden E. Tener, Esq.” (he had already gone), Moree House itself withdrawn for want of a bid (*Belfast News-Letter*, 29 Sep 1882). Days later he was struck from the roll of Poor Law Guardians as well (*Morning News*, 3 Oct 1882). His remaining Tyrone lands at Derrygortinea were sold by the **Land Judges' Court on his creditors' petition** in July 1885 (*Freeman's Journal*). The estate was not sold; it was prised out of a fugitive's name by

PART TWO · CHAPTER III

Edward Shaw Tener, Agent at Portumna



Of Hampden's brother **Edward Shaw Tener (1831–1915)** the 1949 book records three words: “of Portumna.” Where Hampden fled a small fund in private shame, Edward stood at the opposite pole of the same crisis — a very public notoriety, at the very centre of the Irish Land War.

EDITORIAL CORRECTION · 2026 · THE CLANRICARDE AGENCY

The 1911 census, where the surname is hyphenated to “**Shaw-Tener**,” records his profession plainly: land agent. What it does not say is *whose*. Edward Shaw Tener was the resident agent of the **Marquess of Clanricarde**, the most notorious absentee landlord in Ireland, on the Portumna estate that became one of the great battlegrounds of the Land War.

The sworn evidence before the **Evicted Tenants Commission of 1893** names “Mr. Tener” as the agent who carried out evictions “with his emergency men,” who would re-admit a tenant only if he also took his evicted neighbour's farm, and who — finding no local willing to work the cleared land — imported Protestant “planter” families from Ulster to settle it. His own letters survive in the **Clonbrock Papers** at the National Library of Ireland (Ms 35,784): correspondence with **Arthur Balfour**, Chief Secretary for Ireland, and the Royal Irish Constabulary, arranging police protection for the sheriff's eviction parties.

His death is now fixed to the day. The Irish **Calendar of Wills and Administrations** records “Edward Shaw Tener, 15 November 1915, Co. Galway.” Tellingly, his fugitive brother Hampden is *absent* from that Irish register of the dead — having died in New Jersey in 1910, beyond its reach. The brother who stayed is entered; the brother who fled leaves no Irish trace.

PART THREE



The Teners in America

*Pittsburgh, the governorship, and the wider diaspora the first
edition could not yet see.*

PART THREE

The American Line



The 1949 book closes in America, and rightly, for it is in Pittsburgh that the family's fortunes turned upward. The great immigrant cohort — the boys who arrived, in family legend, as messengers and clerks — were the **grandchildren** of John Kinley Tener I, the children of the brothers who stayed. When George Evans Tener died in Ireland in 1873, it was his widow and children who sailed.

From that cohort came the family's most public figure, **John Kinley Tener** (1863–1946): major-league pitcher, president of the National League, member of Congress, and **Governor of Pennsylvania** from 1911 to 1915. His cousins built in iron, steel, and engineering; a later descendant, **Colonel Robert Kinley Tener**, served in the Army Corps of Engineers. The original book chronicled these American sons faithfully, and this edition does not disturb its account of them.

EDITORIAL ADDITION · 2026 · THE WIDER DIASPORA

What the 1949 author could not see — for want of the digitised records now available — is how far the family actually scattered. The Teners did not simply go to Pittsburgh. Modern research has documented branches in **California, Australia, and Ontario**; a line of **mining Teners** in the copper country of Arizona and the iron ranges of Minnesota; a persistence of the older **Galway and Belfast** families in Ireland; and, on the female side, a genuine woman of letters — **Frances M. Milne** (born in the north of Ireland, 30 June 1846), a published poet and single-tax reformer of the American West. These branches are set out in the companion volume to this edition.

APPENDIX · A CHART OF THE LINE

The Descent at a Glance



THOMAS TENER I b. c.1739 · Co. Tyrone m. (1)
Ann Galway · (2) Matilda Jebb

THE MAIN LINE, THROUGH MATILDA JEBB & ROBERT “ROBIN”
TENER

JOHN KINLEY TENER I = MARY FRANCES EVANS
1802–1879 · 1799–1864 of Moree House, Co. Tyrone

THEIR SIX SONS — FOUR STAYED, ONE EMIGRATED, ONE FLED



This chart shows the documented nineteenth-century spine of the family. The later American generations descend from the emigrant and fugitive lines — among them the family’s soldiers, **Capt. Kinley John Tener** (b. 1893; WWI, 150th Field Artillery, 42nd “Rainbow” Division) and **Hampden Frost Tener** (b. 1907; WWII, Army Air Forces). The full pedigree of 113 individuals is held in the family’s GEDCOM record.



Tener: A History of the Family in France, Ireland, and America
was first privately printed in 1949 for Hampden Evans Tener II.

This Revised & Corrected Edition was prepared in 2026,
testing every claim against the primary record, and marking
each correction in the open. The greyhound still runs;
the record simply runs beside it now.

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