



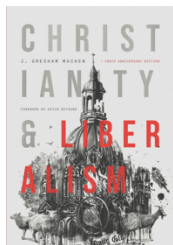
November 19th, 2023

We discover Machen's early life this morning – spending a lot of time (probably too much) on both families, the Machen's from Virginia and the Gresham's from Georgia. Both Southern families, but as we will learn, they are very different. The one thing they do have totally in common? CONFESSIONAL PRESBYTERIANISM!

LIVE STREAMING:

As already noted, last week was the first Sunday school class ever live-streamed at Redeemer. We are already well over 100 views! I credit this with the quality of the broadcast – Every slide, every pointer movement and very little of me seems to be a good secret for success! A hearty thanks to Wister Wong, Josh Wethington, and the team!

GIVE AWAY – NEXT THREE WEEKS



I have three copies of the new hardback, 100th Anniversary Edition of *Christianity & Liberalism* to give away today and the following two lessons as we finish up on the life of Machen. When you pick up your notes – fill out a card and drop it in the bowl. We'll keep all of the names in the bowl and draw one each week! **YOU MUST BE PRESENT – AND AWAKE TO WIN!**

I trust you will enjoy hearing about Machen's family this morning!

Mark

Pastor Mark

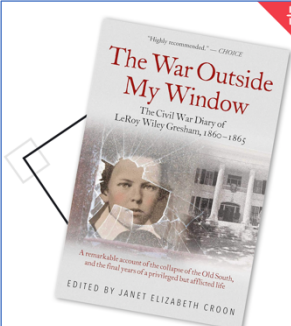
WEEK TWO OUTLINE: “PRESBYTERIAN ROYALTY”

We have three sections today. As we look at Machen’s background, we will look First at the Gresham’s (Machen’s mother’s family in Georgia); Secondly the Virginia Machen’s Machen’s paternal grandfather), and finally the Baltimore Machen’s (Machen’s early life)

Part I – “The Gresham’s” Southern Royalty

 <p>John J. Gresham (1812-1891)</p>	 <p>Mary E. (Baxter) Gresham (1822-1889)</p>	 <p>First Presbyterian Church 1827</p>
THE GRESHAM'S Married May 25, 1843 Five Children Thomas (1844) Leroy (1847) Mary (Minnie) (1849)		JUDGE GRESHAM Prominent Attorney / Judge Twice Mayor of Macon, GA On the Board of the University of Georgia Elder First Presbyterian Church A Churchman - Presbytery / GA "Knew them all"

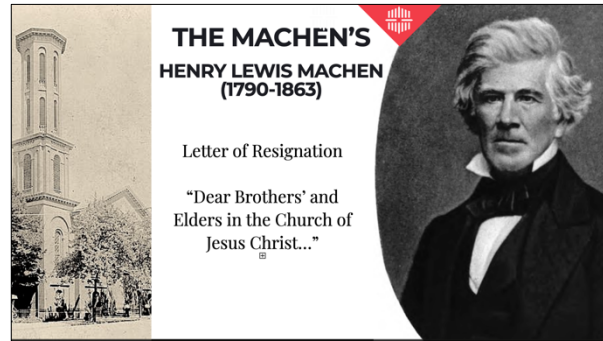
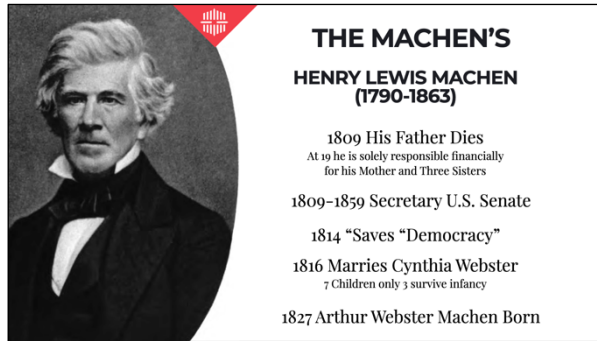
The Gresham’s were an Antebellum influential and close family that revolved their lives around their local church – First Presbyterian Church Macon (Still a thriving church today). Their story could not be fully understood without the Civil War diary of Leroy, their middle child, and big brother to Machen’s wife Minnie.

	LEROY GRESHAM CIVIL WAR DIARY (1860-1865) Minnies Older Brother Shatters His Leg In A Chimney Accident Amazing Insight Into Gresham (Southern Presbyterian) Family Life 7 Volumes – 700 Pages
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Notes:

Part II – “The Machen’s” Washington DC Elite

In part two – We look at Machen’s Grandfather and “His” side of the family. I hope you will agree with me that of all of his relative’s I think Machen was most like His grandfather Henry who unfortunately did not meet until he met him in heaven... Below is his resignation letter from his beloved “4th Pres” See if you agree... This is 1837 – 100 before the death of his grandson.



Dear Brothers and Elders in Jesus Christ:

The manifestation of opinion in the recent election of the church pastor leaves me no room to doubt the prevailing sentiment. By their choice, they distinctly ratified the acts of the Session and gave their adhesion to the “New School Assembly.” To remain longer in their communion would neither conduce to the benefit of the church nor to my own spiritual improvement. I do not wish to be a refractory member or a silent, passive spectator. I have, therefore, been compelled by a sense of what is due to others as well to myself, to retire from your communion.

It cannot be disguised that the Presbyterian Church is rent into two parties, differing essentially from each other on fundamental points: the one maintaining the Calvinistic doctrines of our (Westminster) Confession of Faith, according to their obvious meaning; the other, either denying them altogether or so explaining them as to make them in effect Armenian or Pelagian. Twenty years ago, I assented to the doctrines of the (Westminster) Confession of Faith not without hesitation but after the best examination in my power and with a conviction of (belief) in their conformity with the Divine will revealed in the scripture. Subsequent reflection and experience have furnished no cause for recantation.

I shall, therefore, adhere then to the standards of the church and that division of its members, which shall most unequivocally and consistently maintain them. In pursuing this course, I am actuated by no unfriendly spirit, and I have felt the difficulties that surround the points in controversy. To reconcile the foreknowledge of God and his absolute control over all the events with that free agency of man, which makes him accountable for the moral conduct upon which these events apparently depend, is not the work of human reason. The brightest intellect that has ever been has yet penetrated the mysterious cloud which envelopes this subject. Taught by experience, the fallibility of my judgment, I bow with submission to that divine word representing God as the moral governor of the world and the absolute disposer of events operating by his spirit upon the hearts of men. And according to the councils of his own will, making some of the fallen posterity of Adam vessels of wrath and others of vessels of mercy. I do not impunge that sincerity, the purity of motive, or the ability of those engaged in the propagation of opinions that many, equally sincere, pure, and able, have deemed erroneous or pernicious.

But forced by circumstance to take a position on one side or the other, I prefer submitting to any inconvenience and sharing any obloquy to negative support or actual abandonment of the cause of truth

and vital Christianity. In adopting an alternative that is, at best, painful, I can only pray that the great Head of the church influences the hearts and guides the determination of His professing followers to banish all discord, error, and self-delusion and hasten His reign of universal righteousness and peace. I remain your affectionate brother in Christ,

L.H. Machen
Late elder in the 4th Presbyterian Church

Part III – Arthur & Minnie Machen (Baltimore High Society)



Arthur put himself through law school at Harvard by writing and publishing detective Stories under a pen name

Both Author's

Minnie wrote and published in 1903 a wonderful book on the biblical illusions in the writing of Robert Browning, "The Bible in Browning"

Both Intellectuals
Both Victorian
Same Financial Experiences
Culturally Sophisticated "elite"
Faithful - Serious
Confessional Presbyterians

THE "BALTIMORE" MACHEN'S



"Arthur" (1812-1891)

"Minnie" (1849-1931)

LIFE IN BALTIMORE

CHURCH
FRANKLIN STREET
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

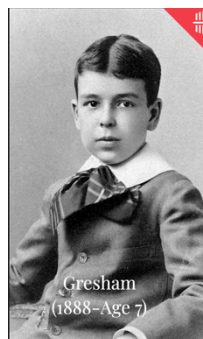
"Sunday Morning, Sunday Night
Wednesday Night"

Arthur a Ruling Elder,
Minnie Teacher / Cathechiser,

Life in the Machen house revolved around the 5 min. trips from Monument to Franklin streets



We end today with Highlights of Machen's childhood.



Gresham (1888-Age 7)

HOME / CHURCH
LIFE AS A CHILD IN BALTIMORE

Six Years at Home - Six Years Private School
Graduated from the 'University School For Boys' - 86 classes he ranked #1-8 times. He excelled in Latin, Greek, & French, all that he would use throughout his life.

A Love of Sports
Along with Arthur, they followed the Baltimore Orioles intensely. They all played baseball, and Gresham excelled at tennis.

Extensive Travel & Culture
Besides church events, concerts, plays, poetry readings, & extensive reading of books 'from father's library,' the family spent summers in New England and had many trips to see family in Virginia (Machen's) and Georgia (Gresham's).

Notes: