**Geniceo Machin, 2672, *Sea Park*** Researched by Marcia Watson

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Born | 31 August 1829 |
| Baptism | 30 September 1829, St George Hanover Square, Westminster |
| Parents | John Morgan Machin and Eleanor Swayne |
| Parent's marriage | 13 March 1827, Walworth, Surrey |
| Siblings | Charles John (1828), Edward Thomas (1830), Matilda Sarah (1832),Harriette (1835) |
| Wife |  |
| Marriage |  |
| Children |  |

When Geniceo was baptized, the family lived at Lower Belgrave Place, and his father was a Gentleman, although he was an accountant when Charles was baptized.

This family appears to be Geniceo and his brothers on the 1841 census at Charles Street, St Luke, London; the father's name may be a recording error.

Charles Maghin, 40, Independent; Charles, 14; Genn, 12; Edward, 10.

Geniceo’s father may have been bankrupt in 1834:

John Morgan Machin, of No. 6, Waterloo -Place, Pall-Mall, in the County of Middlesex, Wine-Merchant, Dealer and Chapman. [[1]](#footnote-1)

This may be the same person listed under The Court of Relief for Insolvent Debtors in 1836:

John Morgan Machin, (sued as John Machin), formerly a Prisoner in the King's-Bench Prison, in the County of Surrey, then of No. 6, Jeffrey-Street, Kentish-Town, Middlesex, out of employ, and late of No. 5, Brydges-Street, Covent-Garden, Middlesex, Chop and Coffee-House Keeper.[[2]](#footnote-2)

In 1839, John Morgan Machin, of National Baths Tarern and Hotel, No. 218, High Holborn, in the county of Middlesex, Tavern-Keeper, that he is in insolvent circumstances, and is unable to meet his engagements with his creditors.[[3]](#footnote-3)

 John Morgan Machin died in 1860, aged 67. No trace has been found of Geniceo's mother or sisters.

**Crime**

Geniceo Machin and his brother Charles were first placed at the bar on 3 May 1850, and the case was deferred for further examination. Two weeks later, the newspapers reported gave more details of their crimes:

Charles and Ceniceo Machin were further examined on the charge of obtaining various sums of money and goods under false pretences. From the evidence adduced at previous examinations, it was gathered that the prisoner Ceniceo Machin had obtained money from Mr Skidmore, of 19 Haymarket, to the amount of about £3, by means of forged IOU's, purporting to come from Mr Moss, of 12, Gray's Inn-square. It was also proved that he had obtained a number of law books, from different solicitors and barristers, in his master's (Mr Moss's) name. The charge against Charles Machin was of a precisely similar nature but was preferred by Mr Thomas Birch of War- wick-court, Gray's Inn.

The additional evidence, since their last examination: — Thos Robert Skidmore deposed that the prisoner Ceniceo Machin had presented, at different periods, three lOUs, each for a sovereign, and signed "J. T. Moss," neither of which was Mr Moss's signature. He did not suspect the prisoner until he presented the third IOU, when he refused him the money and returned the order.

Thomas Harris stated he was clerk to J. B. Duncan and that the prisoner Ceniceo brought the letter now produced, which appeared to be a request from Mr Moss for the loan of "Archbold's Practice." He told the prisoner it was a very old one, to which he replied that 1840 or 1841 would do. On looking at the date of the book, the witness found it was 1842 and accordingly gave it to the prisoner, understanding from the contents of the letter that it would be returned in an hour.

Mr Humphreys, who appeared for the prosecution, said he thought the evidence so conclusive that he would ask the alderman to commit the prisoners without going into any other charge at present. Alderman Carden did not consider the evidence sufficient as applied to the prisoner Charles Machin, and he thought it advisable to go into the other charges against the prisoners.

Thomas Birch stated that on 3 August last, he gave the prisoner Ceniceo Machin, who was in his employ, a receipt to receive £11 of a Mr Ensoll of Lameth-walk. He (prisoner) had received it, but he (prosecutor) had seen nothing of the prisoner or the money since, until the present charge, when he said that he had broken into it for his own use and was afraid to return the rest. Charles Machin was in his employ subsequent to Ceniceo leaving him, since which time he (the prosecutor) has continually been missing various articles of wearing apparel without being able to account for their disappearance.

Robert Eastgate, coach trimmer to Messrs. Albert and Co, Long-acre, stated that he was at his father's house, the Guy Earl of Warwick, in Gray's Inn-lane, in October last, when Charles Machin was lodging there. On the 6th of the same month, Ceniceo came there, and Charles asked the witness's mother to let him sleep with her son. Witness went to work in the morning and left the Machins both in bed, and on returning to dinner, he found his coat, trousers, and waistcoat gone from behind the door, where he had left them. On speaking to Charles Machin, he told the witness he was very sorry and he would try and get back his clothes for him, and accordingly, he shortly after gave him a duplicate of the waistcoat and trousers, which were pledged in the name of "John March," for 3s.

John Lingly, clerk to Mr Bovill, of the Inner Temple, stated that Ceniceo had obtained two volumes of "Bythewood and Jannun's Conveyancing" by representing that he came to borrow them for Mr Moss, his master, and that they would be returned in an hour. There were a great many more charges against the prisoners, but as their wholesale system of robbery had not been made generally known, the prosecutors had not been able to complete many of the charges against the prisoners. They were therefore remanded for a week. [[4]](#footnote-4)

Later in the month, they were examined for the fourth time and remanded until Monday for a final examination before being committed for trial.[[5]](#footnote-5)

**Newgate Gaol**

Geniceo Machin, 21, 5'6", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, fresh complexion, slender, a clerk from St Pancras, was brought into custody on 27 May 1850. He was charged with embezzlement and stealing the sum of £11 of Thomas Birch, his master; forging and uttering a request for Goods to defraud John Busher Duncan; and upon two charges of a misdemeanour.[[6]](#footnote-6) Another record says unlawfully obtaining, by false pretences, of Thomas Robert Skidmore, two sovereigns with intent to cheat him thereof.[[7]](#footnote-7)

He pleaded guilty on 14 June 1850 at the Central Criminal Court and received 10 years transportation. From Newgate Gaol he was transferred to Reading Gaol on 14 July 1850.

The Old Bailey records: convicted 10 June 1850 of feloniously forging and uttering a request for the delivery of two printed books, with intent to defraud William Bovill; embezzling £11, which he had received on account of Thomas Birch, his master; stealing two books, value £1 the goods of William Bovill; obtaining one sovereign the goods of Thomas Robert Skidmore, by false pretences.

His brother, Charles Machin, 22, 5'5", with brown hair, grey eyes, fresh complexion, slender, a clerk from St Pancras was committed with him. He was charged with stealing a pencil case and 2s 6d from Thomas Birch, his master; one pair trousers, one shirt and 5s from his said master; and upon two charges of a misdemeanour. Another record says the two charges were of unlawfully obtaining goods by false pretences. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 6 months. He was discharged on 19 June to the House of Correction.

The Old Bailey records show a slightly different account: convicted on 10 June 1850 of stealing one printed book, valued £1 the goods of Frederick Prideaux:; two printed books, £2, of Edwin James, Esq.; 1 pencil-case, one shirt, and one pair of browsers, 18s of Thomas Birch, his master.

144. Geniceo Machin, 21, single, can read and write, and is a clerk. He was received at Reading Gaol on 19 July 1850, and according to the register, he had been convicted of a felony before.[[8]](#footnote-8) Geniceo was still in the County Gaol, Reading, Berkshire, when the 1851 census was taken.[[9]](#footnote-9) He spent over 18 months there before he was transferred to Dartmoor Prison on 16 April 1853.

At Dartmoor Prison (No 490), aged 24, he boarded the *Sea Park* on 23 December 1853 for the voyage to Western Australia.[[10]](#footnote-10) On arrival at Fremantle on 5 April 1854, he was described as:

2672. Geniceo Machin, 24, 5'4½", light brown hair, blue eyes, long face, sallow complexion, thin, has a burn on the right arm, single and a clerk. [[11]](#footnote-11)

**South Australia**

Geniceo received a Conditional Pardon on 24 December 1854, and by 1857, he was in South Australia and faced a Court hearing at Gawler. The newspapers reported:

Geniceo Machin was brought up on a charge of having feloniously embezzled £30, the property of his employer, Herbert Lester.

The Prosecutor: On 21 January last I gave into possession of the prisoner, goods amounting in value to £95, entered into a book, and called over and examined by me and the prisoner. I also gave him a small account to collect. I desired him to proceed with them in a horse and cart to Lyndoch Valley and endeavour to sell them there or in the neighbourhood. His instructions were to be absent for two days. I saw nothing of him until the night of Thursday last, when, in consequence of information received, I went to Grotegut's public-house. I there found the cart upset, the goods scattered, and the prisoner was lying drunk on the ground. I aroused him, got the goods in the cart, and proceeded home. On the following morning, I went through the stock and found a deficiency of £30 worth at least. The prisoner gave me an account showing that he had sold about £13 worth. The prisoner refused to remain with me to go through the stock.

Cross-examined: Could not say that prisoner had sold and received the money for more goods than were accounted for. I was indebted to the prisoner at the time, for three weeks' wages. Daniel Ryan corroborated the above. The prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Supreme Court.[[12]](#footnote-12)

**Prison record**

15 February 1858, Adelaide Gaol, Genecio Machin was charged with embezzling £20 the property of Herbert Lester, his master, at Gawler on 21 January. He was committed at Gawler and sent to the Supreme Court on 12 May 1858 for trial. Genecio was 27, could read and write, single, was a draper, and arrived from Western Australia in 1857.

At the Supreme Court, Adelaide, on 10 May 1858, the newspapers reported:

Genica Machin, a young man of respectable appearance, was charged with embezzling moneys, value £30, the property of his master, Herbert Lester, at Gawler Town, on 21 January 1858.

The Crown Solicitor stated the case to the Jury and called the following witnesses:-

Herbert Lester was a general storekeeper at Gawler Town. The prisoner was in his employ on 21 January. Entrusted him with goods amounting to £95 for sale in the surrounding country, and instructed him to collect some accounts. The entries of the goods were made by the prisoner in the book produced. Saw the prisoner again on 12 February, at Grotegut's public-house, about three miles from Gawler Town. He was drunk, the cart upset, and the goods scattered about on the ground. Collected the goods and brought them with the prisoner to Gawler Town. Questioned him in the morning, respecting the goods, and the prisoner said it was all right. On the same morning, at about 9 o'clock, I proposed to go through the stock with him. Immediately on witness turning his back, the prisoner absented himself. Had previously asked him what goods he had sold. He showed a book and said he sold goods amounting to £13 16s 7d. Did not have the book with him today; it was very much dilapidated. I took a copy of it. Asked him if he had received any other money. He said he had not. He said he received the money the first two days he was out but had received none since. Took account of the stock after the prisoner left and found a deficiency of £30. The prisoner said before he left that he had lost the £13 16s 7d or had been robbed. He did not say he had received any amount from Mrs Young for a dress sold to her.

Cross-examined by the prisoner - You started on 21 January. I do not remember advancing you £2 on 24 January. Would not swear that I did not. You returned on 12 February and were absent for about three weeks. When I saw you lying on the goods, you said, "This is a glorious capsize". You were partially drunk. It was not on Tuesday afternoon, 26 January, that you left my premises.

Edward Iveson - Saw the prisoner at Mr Young's house on 11 February. Mrs Young purchased a dress from him for 10s.

Cross-examined by the prisoner - I was not examined at the Police Court.

Daniel Ryan was called upon his recognizance but did not answer. His recognizances were ordered to be entreated.

The prisoner stated that Ryan was an important witness on his behalf. On his return home, he gave the prosecutor a written statement of his transactions. The 10s he received of Mrs Young was appropriated in repairing the damage done by the mare, and he would ask the Jury whether, if he had misappropriated the money, he would not have absconded. It was extremely hot weather when he was on the journey, and he had to pay his expenses for travelling. He had frequently, on previous occasions, been allowed to use his own discretion with regard to the time he should remain out. He acknowledged with regret that his conduct was immoral, but he denied that he was a criminal. It was not likely that he would blast his prospects for life by an act of embezzlement, which he must have known would be instantly detected, and, though Ryan was not present, he hoped the Jury would give him the benefit of the doubt, which the evidence must have produced.

Mr Lester, in answer to His Honor, stated that the sum obtained from Mrs Young was not contained in the account.

In summing up, His Honor said that to support the charge of embezzlement; there must be proof of the receipt of money and the absence of an account rendered. The book delivered to the prosecutor had not been produced, and the Court had no means of ascertaining whether the 10s received from Mrs Young had been accounted for. The law was very rigid regarding proofs of embezzlement, which he believed the Crown had not succeeded in establishing. Their duty, therefore, was to acquit the prisoner.

The prisoner was accordingly acquitted and discharged.[[13]](#footnote-13)

No further trace of Geniceo Machin has been found.

1. London Gzaette, 22 July 1834 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. London Gazette, 29 March 1836 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. London Gzaette, 17 September 1839 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Morning Post, 17 May 1850, p7 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Morning Post, 24 May 1850, p7 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. PCOM2/212 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. HO77/57 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. HO23/12 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. HO107/1692/433, p12 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. HO8/118 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. SROWA Acc 128/40-43 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), 19 February 1858, p3 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), 13 May 1858, p3 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)