

Who were Marcus and Henry Themans?

Marcus and Henry Themans were the sons of Saloman Themans, who migrated from the Netherlands to Scotland in the mid-19th century. In the *1861 Census of Scotland*, Saloman was living at 16 Bath Street, Glasgow; married with two children. Newspaper adverts show he was running his business as a tobacconist in both Manchester and Glasgow.

Saloman's business premises in Manchester were advertised in the *Manchester Times* of October 1st 1853: 'S. Themans & Co, Importers of Cigars, 52 Market Street'. The *1873 Post Office Directory Records* show he had moved his business premises to Albert Chambers,

CIGARS AND TOBACCOS.

THE MOST EXTENSIVE AND BEST SELECTED
STOCK IN THE CITY,
AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

THEMANS BROTHERS & CO.

Choice HAVANAS,..... 9 for 1s., or 2s. 6d. per Box.
Superior REGALIAS,
BREMENS, } 7 for 1s., or 14s. per lb.
" EMPERORS, or }
" WOODVILLES, }
Genuine Foreign HAVANA } 21s. to 50s. per lb.
CIGARS of the finest Brands, }
Good London SHAG TOBACCO,..... 3d. per ounce.

THE TRADE AND HOTEL-KEEPERS
Supplied on the best Terms.

A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF
CIGAR CASES,
MEERSCHAUM AND OTHER PIPES,
CIGAR HOLDERS,
PORTEMONNAIES, &c., &c.

OBSERVE—the Name and Address—

THEMANS BROTHERS & CO.,
114 BUCHANAN STREET, } GLASGOW.
40 ARGYLL STREET, }
52 MARKET STREET, MANCHESTER.

Hanging Ditch. He was a full-time resident of Manchester by 1881, living at 69 Bury New Road, with his wife Hannah and seven children – including Marcus aged 16 and Henry aged 11.

Saloman was an active member of the Manchester Jewish business community: he was listed in an article describing the Manchester Royal Jubilee Exhibition in 1887 (*Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, 1 June 1887). His donation of £1 1s 0d to the Russo-Jewish Fund was listed in 1891.

Saloman died on 7 December 1897 aged 69. His newspaper death notice on 11 December recorded his address at that time as 80 Burlington Street. Hannah, Saloman's wife,

**MANCHESTER RUSSO-JEWISH FUND
APPEAL.**

Ten years ago, when the Jews of Russia were subjected to gross and inhuman outrage, an appeal was issued by a committee in our city to the citizens of Manchester. Their response was as prompt as it was generous. No sooner was the relief fund started than subscriptions were collected to the amount of £6,000. An interval of quiet followed; for while the persecution abated. But it has broken out again and in a form more determined and relentless than before. While the rigour of the old decrees is revived, new penal laws have been issued which are being daily enforced by arbitrary officials. The magnificent generosity of Baron Hirsch will, when his scheme is in active operation, permit to benefit the unhappy lot of the persecuted; but his charity is not directed to the relief of the pressing and immediate distress. A large sum is at once needed to help those who are now suffering and to free them from the oppression that now encompasses them. For this object we solicit contributions; to this purpose will they be devoted. Care will be taken by the administrators of the fund that the relief given to the victims of the persecution shall not involve an increase in the pauper population of this country.

Signed on behalf of the Manchester Committee,
E. M. HENRIQUES, J.P., Chairman.
DAVID S. BLES, J.P.
ISIDOR FRANKENBURG, } Vice-chairmen,
I. GERSHON, }
M. MINDELSONN, }
M. SCHLESINGER, Hon. Treasurer, 53, Cross-street
A. M. LAZARUS LANGDON Hon. Secretary, 2, St James's-square.

SECOND LIST OF DONATIONS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Jacob Davis	5	5	0	B. Goldseller	1	1
Reiss, Baner & Co... 5	5	0	Mrs. Goldseller	1	1	
Efraim Nabuin..... 5	5	0	S. Themans	1	1	
C. Van Biema..... 5	5	0	" A Friend "	1	1	
Ephraim	5	5	0	Louis K. Hanger	1	1



Fig 1. Themans & Co. shop (far left), Oxford Street, 1921.

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Street, St Peters. Themans and Co supplied cigars and tobacco and all smoking products. They even sold “own brand” briars (pipes) made by good London and local makers - which have become collectable items

A large advertisement in the *Manchester Courier and Lancashire Advertiser* of 17 May 1901, promoted the company’s involvement in the Owen’s College Jubilee



Memorial Fund Concert. Celebrating their 50th anniversary and seeking “to maintain the pre-eminence of the Manchester College among the new Universities and Colleges of England”,



Fig. 2. Themans & Co briar, from 1895.

Image: © www.silvercollection.it/1766AAATOBACCONIST.jpg

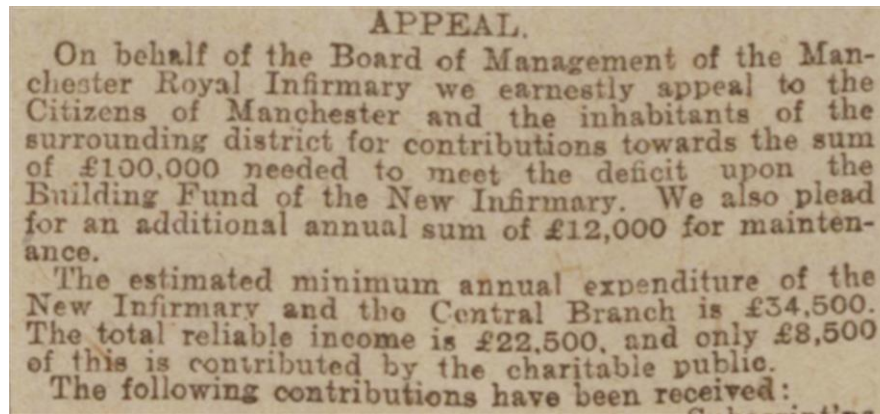
outlived him by a few years, passing away aged 76 on 16 April 1908.

Marcus was still living with Saloman and Hannah in the *1891 Census*, but married Esther in 1899. In the *1901 Census*, Marcus and Esther were living at 87 Lloyd Street with two children. He had apparently assumed control of the tobacconist business which was now called Themans & Co and located at 15 Oxford

the concert was designed to raise £150,000 to pay off some of the College debts. Themans & Co recognised a commercial opportunity!

Continuing Saloman’s engagement in charitable activity, Marcus and Henry responded to the Manchester Royal Infirmary

Building Appeal in 1908 (*Manchester Courier*, 30 May, 1908) and Messrs Themans & Co are listed for a subscription payment of one guinea to the appeal.



Themans and Co survived the court case around the Gurkha knife in which they became unwittingly embroiled in 1915. It is likely they thought they were expressing patriotism in displaying the kukri, but were misinformed in their labelling of it. They refuted any connection to Germany in the trial and it might be they were victims of the anti-German mood which led to around 25,000 civilians being interned during the war. (see *Prisoners of Britain: German Civilian and Combatant Internees During the First World War*, Panikos Panayi, Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2012) Themans & Co even issued picture cards under their own brand name celebrating war heroes.

The *1925 British Phone Book* lists the business at 26 Piccadilly. By this time, Marcus had moved to live in Ash Street, Southport, however he died in September 1926, leaving £36,862 in his will. As reported in the *London Gazette* (22 Feb 1927, Issue 33250, Page 1221): *Died 9 September 1926. Addresses: 29 Ash Street, Southport, and 26 Piccadilly,*

Manchester. Formerly Tobacco and Cigar Merchant. Probate: 28 December 1926 proved by Laurence Themans and Frederick Wm Mason, executors.



Fig 3. Image used with permission of Cigcardpix, Flickr.

Significantly, Henry Themans changed his name to Henry Thornley. According to the *London Gazette* (23 July 1915, Issue 29239, Page 7245), he changed it in July that year. It is probably reasonable to conclude that this was a direct result of the events around the court case.

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