

### Abraham Leon, Sheffield

Abraham Leon was a merchant and cutlery manufacturer in Solly Street, where he had been based since at least 1849. He had been born in about 1819 in Mecklenburg, Germany, and probably came to Sheffield with his parents, Abraham and Eve Leon. The later were living in Lambert Street. By 1861, Abraham Leon in Solly Street had married Henrietta (from Hanover) and both became naturalised. Leon made rapid progress. With the income from selling table cutlery, razors, spring knives and Bowies, he soon had a house in Endcliffe Vale. Leon Bowie knives appear to be rare. The blade carries the words "Washingtonian" and "A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed". It's stamped with the letters: "O\*K".

By 1881, Leon had retired to Lime Lodge, Wells Road, in Bath. The business was listed in Solly Street until the mid-1890s, but it had switched to steel and files. Abraham Leon died in Bath on 23 June 1897, aged 79.

Leon exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851. According to the Official and Illustrated Descriptive Catalogue (1851), his exhibit included:

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#### **225 LEON, ABRAHAM, *Sheffield*—Manufacturer.**

American hunters' knives, various sizes from 20 inches downwards, in Morocco and electro-plate sheaths.

Dagger knives, electro-plate and Morocco sheaths, with black and pearl-dotted handles.

Also, pierced electro plate, with silk velvet sheath.

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