

# The Family Store: A History Of Jewish Businesses In Downtown Asheville, 1880–1990

**A**aron and Lewis Blomberg came to America from Linkova, Lithuania, and first settled in Savannah, Georgia, where they had an older brother, Moses, who owned a dry goods store. Lewis became a peddler who probably obtained his goods from The Baltimore Bargain

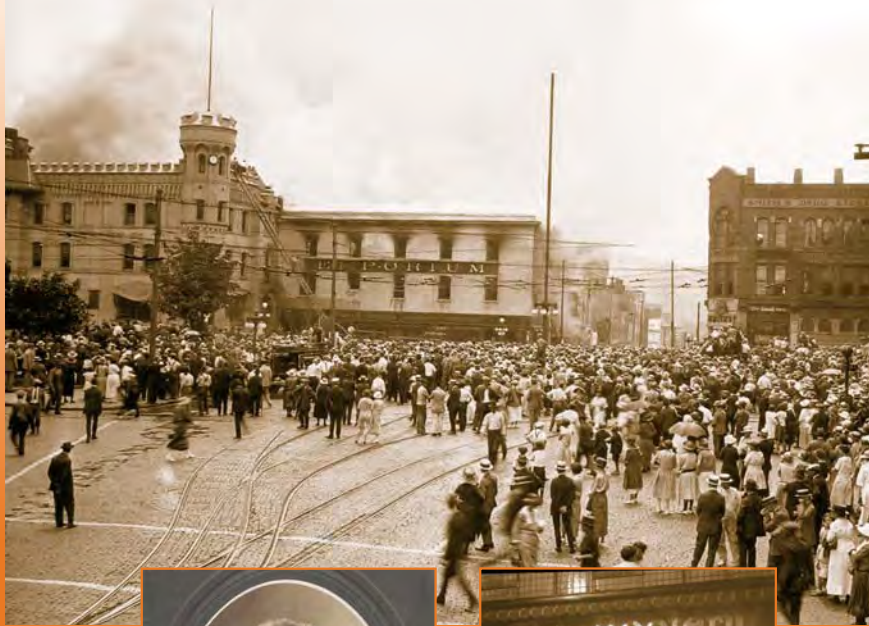
House, which provided immigrant peddlers with credit, merchandise and an assigned territory to peddle their wares. Lewis came to Asheville in 1887 for health reasons. Over the years he had numerous businesses in downtown.

# Blomberg Family

## Prolific Business Owner

A. Blomberg, as he was always known, came to Asheville shortly after his younger brother, Lewis, arrived in 1887.

Although Aaron owned many businesses himself, his greatest legacy is that he had six children, five of whom owned their own downtown businesses. Their children and grandchildren also owned businesses in downtown Asheville. He was, perhaps, one of the most prolific downtown Asheville business owners in the city's history.



The Emporium Fire, July 25, 1923. A fireman and a sales woman died. Owned by Jack Blomberg, son of Aaron Blomberg.



AARON BLOMBERG



THE BOOTERY

The Bootery, 9 Patton Avenue, 1945. Remained there till 1963. Moved across street to 16 Patton Avenue, 1965-1995.

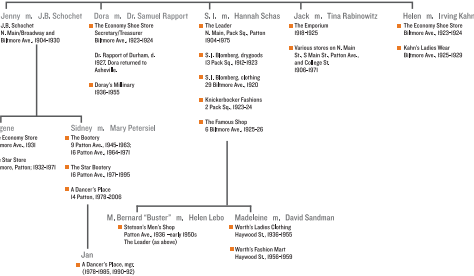


Above: Postcard to A. Blomberg from Russia. Right: Message in Yiddish. The card is a thank you from a child for a pair of pants that were sent to him by A. Blomberg.

## A. Blomberg

- 1899 A. Blomberg, N. Main St. until 1910 and on S. Main St., 1911-1912.
- 1906 AB and Son, N. Main St. and Star Clothing Co., Pack Square.
- 1913 The Racket Store, Biltmore Ave., until 1919.

### Aaron's children's businesses



## Lewis Blomberg

- 1890 The Model Cigar and News Store, 17 Patton Ave.
- 1908 Added sporting goods
- 1907 New York Junk and Hide Company, 78 N. Lexington Ave., until 1919
- 1916 Lewis Blomberg Sporting Goods and Toys, 15 Patton Ave., one yr.
- 1917 Moved sporting goods and toys into 17 Patton with cigars and news and added art goods. Also ran the Blomberg Amusement Company with games upstairs, 17 1/2 Patton (one year only). In addition, at same address (1917-1919), he operated The Strand, a movie theater.
- 1920 No longer at 17 Patton, he somehow acquired The Racket Store, 16 Biltmore Ave., a dry goods emporium owned by his brother, Aaron, from 1913-1919. Lewis owned until 1932.
- 1921 Asheville Salvage Co., army-navy surplus clothing, 29 Biltmore Ave., until 1922.



Above: Edna Blomberg, daughter of Lewis Blomberg



Right: Lewis Blomberg extended family 1903



Far left: Lewis sues railroad; details in news clipping. Left: Cigar store business card

### Lewis's children's businesses

