

Mendel was born in 1919 in Eccleshall, Yorkshire, the son of Hyman Blumenfeld and Hannah Cohen.

Mendel's grandparents Moisi and Gitel were born in Akerman, Ukraine. Two of their sons, Hyman and Abram arrived in England in approximately 1890. Hyman married Hannah Cohen in Manchester in 1890 and their first child Fanny was born in 1900.

In 1910, both Hyman and Abram became naturalised British citizens. Hyman's certificate states that he is 32 years old, a cabinet maker living at 52 Elton Street, Broughton, Salford. He states that he is married and has two children Fanny and Louis. Abram's certificate states that he lives with his brother and is a subject of Austria born in Akerman, Russia. He is single and a wood carver. The certificate also states that his parents are subjects of Austria.

The 1911 census details that the family name is Blumenfeld and Abram is living with his brother and family at 52 Elton Street. Hyman and Hannah are listed as being married for twelve years and having two children.

By 1919, Hyman had moved to Sheffield and was running a cabinet maker at 12 Ada Street. His son Mendel was born this year.

In 1927, Mendel's sister married Mendel Kaddish at the Central Synagogue Sheffield. The wedding was reported in the local newspaper. *Ivory georgette with exquisite stitching of beads formed the handsome wedding gown worn by Miss Fanny Bloomfield, only daughter of Mr Hyman Bloomfield of Sheffield who was married yesterday at the Central Synagogue Sheffield to Mr Mendel Kaddish, son of Max Kaddish. Misses Hetty & Kitty Kaddish, bridesmaids, chose picture frocks of pink taffetas, their wreaths of pink and silver roses toning with the dresses. They carried bouquets of pink tulips and white lilac. The ceremony was performed by Rabbi S Fisch F.F.S. assisted by the Rev S Warshawsky. At the reception held in the Cutlers Hall, the guests were received by Mrs Bloomfield in a gown of black georgette, which was adorned by a hem of velvet flowers appliqued to the dress by gold thread. Mr Louis Bloomfield was best man. Among the many gifts was a silver loving cup presented to the bride and groom by the Central Synagogue. Their daughter Greta was born in 1931.*

Mendel Kaddish became the works manager at Bloomfield factory and by June of 1932 H Bloomfield and Sons Ltd was incorporated. The directors being Mr & Mrs Bloomfield, L Bloomfield and M Kaddish.

On 4 September 1932, the new Jewish Burial Hall and cemetery of the Sheffield Central Hebrew Congregation in Blind Lane, Ecclesfield was consecrated by the Chief Rabbi, Dr JH Hertz. He consecrated a marble tablet within the hall which bore the inscriptions of the eight men responsible for the building. Hyman became the President of Sheffield Central Synagogue.

Mendel became the treasurer of Sheffield Young Zionists Society and a member of the Sheffield Maccabi where he played football and was a keen swimmer.

Researched by Dorothy Ramser