

Teacher Josef Enßlen

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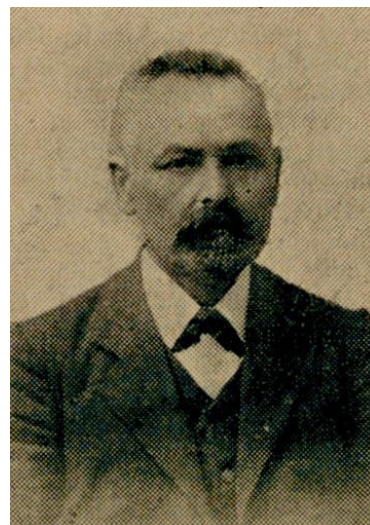
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Teacher Josef Enßlen †

With the death of the former teacher Josef Enßlen on 22 February, 1938, the community of Mannsburg has lost one of its most useful front-rank men.

If a man has education, combined has a right attitude and disposition with common sense, he can do a lot of useful things in a farming community. He can be a leading and educational influence on the whole community.

In J. Enßlen, all of these features were met and, therefore, his activity in the community bore fruit. If Mannsburg can advance the claim of a reputation as a strong front-line community today, J. Enßlen played no small part in bringing about this fact. Because he had an enduring direction, solely with an eye for maintaining the well-being of the community, always free from personal hatred and contentiousness, he therefore acquired for himself great respect in the community and contributed much so that the members of the community were educated to a certain political maturity, allowing them to separate the matter from the person.



We openly admit that there were more disputes in Mannsburg than in any other community gathering. But everyone stood up for his own opinion. Spirits often burst on one another, but not camp against camp, allowing for mutual disagreement and a resolve to settle every situation and every question that very same day. With us, everyone accommodated themselves to the highest-determining factor, namely, the community majority. As soon as a decision was made, the opponents fall silent.

This fact is not sounded enough for our community; for it ensured the possibility of a positive working basis in the community and has proven itself in splendid reality. Josef Enßlen had for the maintenance of such circumstances, I would like to say tradition, to work together with all his might, and we want to give him foremost credit for that. Herein lies his greatest service to the community of Mannsburg. In a sense, he was Teacher the Great.

However, for 13 years, he was also Teacher the Little in the community. In this respect, he was a typical German Bessarabian teacher. He trained and taught the children in the up-bringing and admonition of the Lord. His former students, a significant part members of today's community, retain a grateful and honorable memory toward him for his faithful and conscientious work of education.

At the same time, J. Enßlen was the sexton of the congregation. Here, too, he was a whole man completely at the height of his task. The Office of Sexton is extremely important in our congregation, where the parish is made up of 15-20 congregations, and the pastor is not able to come so often to the congregation. The sexton is the pastor's representative. He is concerned about the worship service and performs the work of a caretaker of souls. Josef Enßlen was an excellent reader of sermons (*Predigtverleser*). He always provided himself with the best sermon books, so it was a pleasure to attend his church services.

He was exemplary as municipal clerk (*Gemeindeschreiber*), the office which he also held over the course of 13 years (as long he was teacher). He was the "personification of German punctuality and accuracy," with which he also especially inspired the respect of his superiors

Many years before Josef Enßlen was serving as sexton and teacher, he worked in the economic sector. Served as a board member of the Consumer Association from 1902-1916, until it had to be liquidated as a result of the situation created by the war. From 1906 until his death, with an interruption from 1916-1918, where he lived on his estate in the Kherson, he worked as director and cashier at the Mannsburg Bank, to which he dedicated his best years and energies in faithful service and operation. The board of directors laid a beautiful wreath on his grave in recognition of his merit, and made a statement by installing his portrait in the premises of the bank. On the day of his funeral, 25 February, a black banner was waving on the bank building as a sign of mourning and the businesses in the bank's court were closed.

Yes, his life was full of activity. Pastor A. Härter characterized, in his impressive and solemn funeral oration on Matthew 20:8 "Call the laborers and give them their pay..." his life as precious because its capacity consisted of effort and work. This circumstance gave him the prestige and respect from all those who knew him. That was also expressed by the large participation of the funeral of his burial. Rarely has Mannsburg seen such a large funeral procession as was the case here. Not only was the parish participation so great, but there were many from afar who also came. At the funeral, the local choir and band, which J. Enßlen belonged to in earlier years, sang and played.

Concerning his personal information, the following is to be reported: J. Enßlen was born on 14 April, 1861, in Alt-Postal. From 1878-1881, he attended the Werner School, where he completed his course of studies. In 1884, he took the sexton examination with Consistory

Provost Bienemann in Odessa. In 1881-1882, he was “*Provisor*” (Assistant teacher) in Teplitz. In 1882-1895, sexton teacher and municipality clerk in Friedensfeld. In 1895-1908, the same positions in Mannsburg. Making a total of 27 years as teacher, sexton, and municipality clerk. The zeal in his service as a teacher and secretary was recognized and rewarded with 2 silver metals and 1 bronze metal. But the deceased was not spared from afflictions and blows of fate. The Bolshevik overthrow in Russia broke him of his 900 *Dessjatinen* [1 dessiatine = 2.7 acres/1.09 hectares] estate at Ochakov, Kherson Gouvernment, and later, in the post-war period, things turned sour for his acquired savings. In 1883, J. Enßlen married Samantha Krämer, whom death tore away from him in September, 1935, after 52-years of marriage. The still living son, who resulted from this marriage, retired from active service teacher Otto Enßlen, is living in Mannsburg.

J. Enßlen was always in exceptional health. However, toward the last asthma set in, and also feebleness and weakness in the limbs, and on 22 February, a heart paralysis (*Herzlähmung*) very quickly bought life to an end. He died a peaceful death at the age of almost 77 years, leaving behind, in deep sorrow, a son, a daughter-in-law and 1 grandchild.

The undersigned worked 16 years in the bank with the deceased and also got to know him as a genuine person, a comrade and friend, highly appreciated. I close with the poet's word: “Oh, they have buried a good man! And to me he was more.”

Alexander Mutschler

[Translation Ends]