

Dr.
Ludwig Pfeiffer
Note about the village book
Ermershausen from the year 1945

I and the Ermershausen village book.

I was 26 years (1909 - 1935) as the chief school inspector of the city of Schweinfurt. As such I organized and directed the entire municipal school system. This was built on a Christian-social foundation and stood in high regard. That is why the new (Nazi) administration took me over in 1933. although I was not a party member. After only 2 years, I had to resign because of my world view and political attitude, I had to leave the service prematurely. Since then, despite my services to the city, I and my family have been disgraced by the (Nazi) party. My son was denied a position at the vocational school that I founded.

Since I could not take part in the open any more, I occupied myself with the study of the history of my native country and Ermershausen. I studied the available files and documents for years. As a result of this work, I was able to complete the "Village Book of Ermershausen" in 1937. But the (then Nazi) censorship would only allowed this (book to be published), if I took into account the time of the National Socialist government, since this section also belongs to the history of the village. I knew what was going on in the village at the time from my frequent visits and was just as far removed from the (Nazi) party activities as I was in Schweinfurt. Especially since my father's house #68 there was also far away from it. With the time I could not close myself however the insight that also the present events belonged to the area of my representation and I wrote then retroactively the last chapter of the book, completely from the point of view of the chronicler. I wrote this section three times, until its version was (good) enough for the censor. I wanted to mention especially the progress that the party had made in the village. If I spoke of a solution to the Jewish question, I did not want it to be misunderstood. At that time, as I understand it, it was a matter of checking whether the properties in the village that had come into Jewish hands from Christian ones in recent years had been acquired by proper means. When I heard in 1938 that there had also been outrages against the Jews in Ermershausen, I condemned this in the strongest terms, just as I was the first to suggest that the vandalized Jewish cemetery should be restored by the community.

I wrote the village book without remuneration, only out of love for my homeland. Only my small expenses were reimbursed to me. 1000 copies were printed. About 300 of them were distributed mainly to local residents. Price 1.00 RM. The work was not available in bookstores. Even before the end of the Nazi regime, I began to remove the last chapter of the book, which I had added later. My compatriots were not interested in it either, they were interested in the stories from the past of their village. The community took the cleaned books under lock and key. Nothing was more obvious to me than that I did not wanted the Ermershausen village book to be used for propaganda by the Nazis. From the very beginning, I lacked any inner attitude. I also had no reason whatsoever for doing so. Not only, I lost my office through the party, but my son-in-law, too, was no longer acceptable as a religion teacher at a teachers' seminary after he would not joined the (Nazi) party and had taken a stand against the German Christians in public lectures. He died of an illness in the field. His widow, my daughter, stands with her 3 children without any means of subsistence. My son did not get a job at the vocational school in

Schweinfurt under Nazi rule, because he was also not politically reliable. In addition, there are the losses of assets that I had to suffer due to bomb damage. In 1944, I lost my property in Schweinfurt so completely to bomb damage that I, my wife and my son's family could barely save their few surviving assets. Since then, we two old people have had to camp here in Ermershausen with what little remains of our possessions in a very limited emergency apartment. And to make the misfortune complete, at the beginning of this year (1945) my house in Nurnberg was also totally destroyed.

The misfortune brought upon our people by the unfortunate Nazism hit me and my family particularly hard. I must emphasize once again that we were all completely distant from Hitler and his party,

Signature:

Dr. L. Pfeiffer

ADDITIONAL NOTE BY PHILIP A. PFEIFFER:

Johann Ludwig Pfeiffer - 1872-1952 (Generation #6 in Ermershausen)

He was the first child of Ludwig and Anna Margareta Krug Pfeiffer, having been born on May 18, 1872 in Ermershausen in House Nr. 68. Ludwig, during the years of his youth spent in the old established Pfeiffer farming family, it was his mother who awoke in him an interest in the history of his native region's traditions and customs. As a little boy, his inquisitive mind led him to ask many questions and seek answers from his mother. Ermershausen owes this unique woman, Margareta Krug Pfeiffer, a heartfelt thanks for raising this village son, who researched and authored the village book entitled ERMERSHAUSEN. Ludwig passed away in Schweinfurt, Germany on 7 June 1952. A plaque has been placed on House Nr. 68 honoring the place of his birth. Also, the City of Schweinfurt, has in his honor, named a newly built school after him, it is called the "Upper City Board of Education Dr. Ludwig Pfeiffer School."

Dr. Ludwig Pfeiffer is Philip A. Pfeiffer's (born on 8 April 1933) - first cousin twice removed.

