

## Pastor Alexander Simsont

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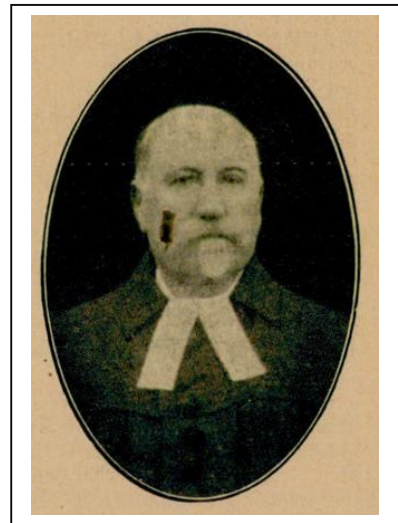
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[Translation Begins]

### Pastor Alexander Simsont †

In the last half of the year, Alt-Elft experienced deep sorrow when Pastor Alexander Simsont went to his eternal rest on 21 September, 1938, at 9 o'clock in the morning. His death aroused deep sadness and loving sympathy in all the souls in his parish and deep sadness and loving sympathy at the loss for the children of our parish and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Tarutino District. The funeral took place on Saturday, 24 September, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Paying their last respects to the deceased, almost all pastors of our Church District were present along with Senior Pastor Baumann at the head. From all communities of the parish, from the neighboring villages and other towns, a large number of people showed up to attend the ceremony. At the church, Senior Pastor Baumann gave an address on the basis of the word of the Bible: Romans 14:7-9, while Pastor B. Schnaidt gave a funeral sermon from Psalm 16:6, selected by the deceased. Pastor Winger also spoke at the open grave, at the request of the deceased, about 1 Kings 19:4. The brothers and sisters from the associations in Alt-Elft sang for their pastor, who had so often visited them in their meetings, the song he requested: "Yes, indeed, we will see each other again!" (*Ja gewiß, wir sehen uns wieder!*).



Pastor Johann Karl Alexander Simsont was born on 31 July, 1863 on the Neu-Laitzen estate, in Oppekahn Parish, Livonia, son of merchant Johann Simsont and his wife Minna, née Mairan. He was confirmed in Walk, in 1879, by Provost Kupfer. While in Walk, he attended the district school, a lower high school (*Untergymnasium*), which he completed in 1880. Due to a lack of funds, he had to interrupt his studies, was a private tutor (*Hauslehrer*) and prepared himself through private lessons for high school (*Gymnasium*) and passed the examination in the lower sixth form (*Unter-Prima*) of the high school at Birkenruh in 1884. In 1885, at that same place, he passed his school leaving exam qualifying for admission to a university (*Abiturium*) and

studied theology in Dorpat for a year. He had to interrupt his studies due to a lack of funds, was briefly at home. During this time, his dearly beloved mother died. As a result, he became a private tutor again and prepared himself for the exam to become a teacher of the German language in the secondary schools. He took this exam in Petersburg and then became a teacher at the Peter's School (*Petrischule*) in Petersburg. He worked as a teacher for a whole 10 years. With the help of a scholarship, he was able to continue the uninterrupted course of study and, in 1897, quit the faculty of theology in Dorpat. In 1897-1898, he did his probationary year in the Grimm-Lesnoi-Karamysch Colony on the Volga River as a candidate on the pastor's staff. After finishing the probationary year, he was ordained in Moscow by Provost Erert on 12 April, 1898 and worked in the Slatoust Parish on the Ufa River under extremely difficult conditions. On 29 November, 1902, he married Julia Charlotte Apse in Tula. Already by 7 November, 1904, his wife was snatched from him by death. He remained a widower with a small child. He himself had to set out on distant journeys in order to serve the vast huge parish. The child stayed at home with strangers. After 10 years of working in the far east, he accepted a call in the homeland and became a pastor in Lasdoh, Livonia in 1908. On 19 May, 1909 he married a second time; this time to Maria Katharina Sucker, who preceded him into eternity on 27 March, 1930 and is buried in the Alt-Elft cemetery. He had difficult experiences even in the homeland. In August of 1910, he lost all his possessions in a single night through the communist incitement (conflagration) and he and his, with great difficulty, were able to barely escape with their lives. He came to Bessarabia on 14 January, 1911 and was installed as the pastor of the Alt-Elft Parish on 25 September, 1911. In more than 27 years, as he himself wrote back to Livonia, Bessarabia became his second home. He loved his parish and the work in it. However, there were also difficult times. During the war time, he was a faithful worker in his Alt-Elft Parish. A long period to work was granted to him; he was the pastor for the whole 40 years. Since March, 1937, he suffered from bone atrophy (*Knoechenatrophie*) [osteoporosis] and after a lot of suffering, gently fell asleep in the Lord on 21 September at 9 o'clock in the morning. He reached an age of 75 years, 1 month and 8 days. He leaves behind 3 daughters and 3 grand children.

The Alt-Elft community laid their beloved pastor to rest in their cemetery on 24 September, 1938. The Alt-Elft and Paris music bands accompanied him on his last journey. The number of flowers and wreaths that were offered for his farewell was great. To mention only some of the many wreath donations which later covered the mound: those of the parish; the congregations of the parish; the schools of Alt-Elft and Neu-Elft; the Women's Societies of Alt-Elft and Plotzk; the Alt-Elft municipal authorities and also the church choir of this community; the Alexander Asylum at Sarata. The deceased lives on in the hearts and minds of his community and friends until we will see him again "where the storms are over."

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