

MARKUSFELD Henryk Ludwik (1853–1921), industrialist, social, charity and local government activist, president of the Jewish Community Council. He was born on 11th November 1853 in Częstochowa, the son of → Adolf and Ernestyna Estera née Kohn, brother of → Józef.

He was the owner or co-owner of many enterprises in the city:

- In 1896, together with → Herman Ginsberg, → Jan Grossman, → Ludwik Kohn and his son, → Maurycy, he founded the “Warta” Spinning and Jute Weaving Plant.
- In 1880, he founded the Coloured Paper, Upholstery and Cardboard Factory.
- In 1895, together with his brother Józef and merchant → Maurycy Neufeld, he established the Glue and Gelatine Factory.
- In 1891, he founded a commercial printing house.
- In 1901, together with → Stanisław Grossman, he founded the Hat Factory. From 1906, he was the factory’s sole owner. In the following year, it was transformed into a joint-stock company.
- Together with Ludwik and → Leopold Kohn, he was also co-owner of the Paper Factory and Mill (later known as the Kohn Brothers & Markusfeld Paper Factory and Mill).
- In 1907, Markusfeld entered the company (established in 1906) “Siła i Światło” [“Strength and Light”] Electric Light Office.

Markusfeld held various positions in the city’s financial associations:

- He was deputy president and one of two directors of the City of Częstochowa Loan Society.
- He was a board member of the Częstochowa Mutual Loan Society.
- He served on the Discount Committee of the Częstochowa branch of the State Bank.
- In 1913, he joined the council and board, and was Honorary President, of the Częstochowa Crafts Savings and Loan Association.

He was engaged in a whole series of activities for the benefit of Częstochowa Jewish community:

- He chaired the “Linias Hacedek” Society to Aid Poor and Sick Jews.
- From 1899 (when it was established), he was a member of the board, and for some time president, of the “Dobroczynność” Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ).
- He was involved with the initiative to build the TDdŻ Hospital. He was elected to chair the Hospital Construction Committee. He displayed great

energy, forethought and dedication which, in November 1913, led to the opening of the hospital (commonly known as the “Israeli Hospital).

- He belonged to the Charity for Christians Society.
- Beginning in 1890, he served as president of the Częstochowa Jewish Community Council.
- He headed the committee which, in 1899, led to construction of the New Synagogue at ul. Aleksandrowska 10 (now ul. Wilsona).

As president of the Jewish Community Council, at the beginning of the 20th century, he obtained permission to expand the Jewish cemetery. In 1907, he financed the construction of a new wall around the cemetery and then began the construction of a new funeral *shtiebel*.

Markusfeld was especially concerned with issues relating to the education of Jewish children and youth. He chaired the Jewish Secondary Schools Association and, in 1917, was co-founder of the Jewish Gimnazjum at ul. Szkolna 3 (Dąbrowskiego). He was also the initiator, in 1901, of the Horticultural Farm for Jews. There, young pioneers were trained in preparation for settlement in Palestine. He also chaired the Welfare Council of the Crafts School for Jews, located in a building erected by the Markusfeld family. The brothers Henryk and Józef Markusfeld supported the school with an annual subsidy on 500 rubles.

Also, thanks to Markusfeld’s material support, a synagogue cantors’ school was established in 1906. He co-created and supported the “Lira” Music and Literary Society (which he chaired for some time), the library and reading room of the Crafts Club and the Jewish Gymnastics and Sports Association. He also co-organised and supported the Jewish scouting movement Hashomer Hatzair.

He was a local government activist. From the beginning of August 1914, he belonged to the Civic Committee, being a representative of the Polish authorities in the first few days of the World War. A few days later, along with other members of the Civic Committee, he was included within the City Council. In July 1915, he was appointed to the new City Council, remaining a councillor until April 1917. Markusfeld also belonged to a number of different associations. For example, some were the Volunteer Fire Brigade, in which he served as a board member and supported financially.

Markusfeld’s activities resulted in him being regarded as “the heart of the Jewish community”. About him, in his memoirs, physician Stanisław Nowak wrote,

“He was a typical Jewish philanthropist. To him, the Jews of Częstochowa owed the existence of most of their communal institutions, which he either founded or generously endowed [...]. From time to time, Markusfeld also supported Christian institutions [...]. He was a good man [...], he liked when his sacrifices were raised. He was also sensitive to flattery. But his weakness was exploited by many institutions, dignifying him and, in turn, acquiring material help. He was a rich man, but modest in his everyday life. Despite some funny sides to his character, he was well-liked”.

He lived at ul. Kościuszki 50 (from 1932, al. Wolności).

He died on 7th October 1921 in Częstochowa and was buried in the Jewish cemetery. (His grave has not survived). His funeral attracted thousands of Częstochow residents, headed by Mayor Józef Marczewski and City Council Chairman S. Nowak. Those who gave eulogies included, at the synagogue, → Władysław Sachs, in front of the “Dobroczyńność” Charitable Society for Jews Hospital → Ludwik Batawia and, at the Jewish cemetery, → Edward Kohn. In 1929, the City Council received a proposal to rename ul. Garncarska to ul. Henryka Markusfelda. However, this was not approved by councillors.

His wife was Flora née Heyman (24th February 1864 Łódź – 12th December 1927 Warszawa), the daughter of Szymon and Rozalia née Rosental (Rosental). They had a daughter and two sons:

- Dora (2nd October 1884 Częstochowa–),
- Mieczysław Józef Henryk (3rd March 1886 Częstochowa–), who graduated from the Berlin Polytechnic. He was later a board member and one of the directors of the Częstochowa Coloured Paper, Upholstery and Cardboard Factory Joint Stock Company.
- Karol (3rd July 1893 Częstochowa–), who graduated from the Berlin Polytechnic. He was later a board member and one of the directors of the Częstochowa Coloured Paper, Upholstery and Cardboard Factory Joint Stock Company, He was active in sports and was a board member of the Częstochowa “Warta” Sports Club. From 1928, he also belonged (just like his uncle Józef) to the Polish branch of Bnei Brith.

Sętowski, *Markusfeldowie*, pp. 227–230. – APCz, MagCz 3620, document No. 57.

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