



# The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 81, Ellis, KS 67637-0081 USA

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Membership Dues:  
Lifetime \$150.00  
Annual \$25.00

## SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- **ANNUAL MEETING** The Bukovina Society of the Americas, Inc. a Kansas non-profit corporation will conduct the annual meeting Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the headquarters/museum in Ellis, Kansas. The agenda will consist of election of board of directors for expiring terms, financial report and other business that may come before the members.
- **NEW LIFE MEMBERS** We welcome our new life members whose generous support ensures the future of the Society. 258 Kimberley Rayner 259 Donald Henig 260 Wolfgang Angyal 261 Liz McConnell 262 Mark Kelly 263 Sanja Simonić Matic 264 Allan and Diana Heinle 265 Joel Kainz
- From the Home Page of the BSA website Spring 2021
- Added Directions for using the online Bohemian/Czech (Pilsen & Budweis) Archives
- Added Links for Bohemian/Bukovina Researchers
- Created English versions from the Willi Kosiul Website and linked them to the German articles
- 210+ Active Users of the Genealogy Database
- 8 new Life members and 36 new/renewing members
- Thanks to John Losee and Becky Hageman for the assistance in translating content for the website.
- The Hays, KS public library for some 20 years has displayed a Bukovina German artifact from the emigration in the Bohemian Forest, to Bukovina, Germany, and New York. A painted wooden statuette in a glass fronted display case was donated to the Society in 2007 by Dr. Sophie Welisch. The library has completed a major renovation and in the rededication, the treasure will again be displayed.
- Carol Plach, born in Czernowitz, Bukovina died March 19, 2021 at age 93 in his adopted country of Australia. His memories were the base for a series of articles in the Newsletter as edited and submitted by his daughter Kathleen Garofoli. He remained very sharp of mind and had a unique sense of humor until taken from this life. The Windholz family was able to see and talk to him on our cell phones just a few years ago; a real privilege.
- Charlotte Walter was 104 years old in April of this year, the oldest Bukovinian woman. According to Luzian Geier, she was born Charlotte Elisabeth Wilczek, and grew up in Czernowitz.
- In the local elections in October of 2020 in the city of Rio Negro (Brazil), Prof. James Valério was elected Prefeito (Mayor) for the next four years with 52 percent of the votes cast in the first round. The city's long-standing local politician in the field of education is descended from the Trier settlers (Valerius) who settled in the area in 1929. Francisco Jose Seidl wrote to Luzian Geier, that he has Bukovinian roots in the Palatinate line through the Schaffhausen family. According to a media report dated November 15, 2020, his long-time fellow local political associate, Prof. Alessandro von Linsingen, was elected Valério's first deputy. His family also has German (Prussian) origins. He has made a great contribution to industrialization and the trade in Mate (herb tea).
- A Geschwendtner lady from Fürstenthal, Bukovina told her story of relocation first to a farm in Poland, then to then East Germany from which she escaped to West Germany. Recorded on You Tube in her German dialect, the time frame ranges from 1934 to 1950/51. See at: <https://youtu.be/r0-oRPPrB5I>
- Museum visitors: Steve and Linda (Unruh) Rau, members of the Bukovina Society from Deer Park, Oregon made a point to stop in from a church mission trip to central Florida to visit with Joe Erbert and Guy Windholz. Kansans Dale Winslow and his brother Gary have a goal to visit and learn of the history of every county in the State and included the Society museum in their journey.

# CONNECTION: BOHEMIANS, BUCOVINIANS OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAS, IN THE 19TH CENTURY.

By : Prof. Ayrton Gonçalves Celestino

Collaboration:

Arthur Leite Binder

Francisco José Seidl and

Douglas Reckmann.

I thank them deeply.

*Professor Ayrton Gonçalves Celestino is a friend and distant relative of many members of the Bukovina Society. A descendant of German Bohemians from Bukovina who immigrated to Brazil, he is an authority on the history and immigration of Bukovina Germans to Brazil, having written and contributed to books, written hundreds of articles, and delivered presentations on three continents. Most recently, he was sworn in at the founding of the prestigious Academia Parano-Catarinense de Letras, honoring individuals who have published works of recognized and significant value to the cultural understanding of Rio Negro, Mafra, and towns in the states of Paraná and Santa Catarina. A board member of the Historical and Geographical Institute of Paraná, he is the founder of the Bukovina-German Cultural Association (Associação Alemã-Bucovina de Cultura – ABC), and under his initiative, a “Bukovina Cross” has been erected on Bukovina Square at the entranceway to Rio Negro. Professor Celestino practices family and civil law in Curitiba, Brazil.*

The Industrial Revolution caused amazing changes in the world. The discovery and use of steam energy made industry and land and sea transports more dynamic. The power of steam set the world at a faster pace than had ever been seen.

In addition to the technological advances and scientific advances in all fields, there were also energetic political movements in Europe. Its participants were greatly persecuted. A good number of them immigrated to the Americas. In Brazil, many of these politicians and big businessmen settled in Joinville and Blumenau, in the State of Santa Catarina.

German immigration to Brazil began in 1824, with the encouragement of the Imperial Brazilian Government. The immigration waves from the Bohemian Forest (Böhmerwald) started from approximately 1850, to the cities of Blumenau (1850), Joinville (1851) and São Bento do Sul (1873), in the State of Santa Catarina. These localities were established as immigrant colonies, through Cia. Colonizadora Hamburguesa (the Hamburg Colonization Company). This company recruited people, even whole families, to form colonies in the Americas: in the USA, Mexico, and Canada in the northern hemisphere, and in Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, and Venezuela in South America.

From the second half of the 19th century onwards, the European emigration movement was astounding. With a preferential destination in America, the most settlers did not know which of the Americas they were being taken to. Many immigrants landed in the United States, Canada or Cuba,

Mexico, Paraguay, Argentina and many of them in Brazil, especially in the South, in the states of São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.

The news of the migrations reached Bucovina. The economic situation in Bucovina was also deteriorating, with many people worrying about their children's future. This led many people to think that they, too, should emigrate.

In June 1886, a group of emigrants from Ilisesti (Illischestie) were the first emigration group from Bucovina to find their way to America, settling in Ellis and Ellis County, Kansas. (The Bukovina Society of the Americas was founded by Mr. Oren Windholz and enthusiastic descendants from this group in 1988 in Ellis.)

The family of Wenzel Schödlbauer (1787-1858) lived in Poiana Micului. In 1886, Wenzel's son Karl Schödlbauer (1841-1905), my maternal great-grandfather, was also leading another group of families from the villages of Poiana Micului (Buchenain), Boureni (Bori) and other villages near the city Gura Humorului (Gurahumora) who intended to emigrate. The group's meetings were held at Karl's house.

They were not sure where to immigrate, nor had they any idea of how to accomplish it. There were several options: USA, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, among others. One certainty, however, was that their destination should have arable land and a guarantee of happy and safe well-being for their children's future.

In one of the meetings, many ideas and opinions were voiced concerning their possible destination in the Americas. In a corner of the room, a man watched everything without saying a word. Few knew him. He was Franz Wolf, born in the Bohemian Forest in Chinitz-Tettau, near to Srní (Rehberg). Franz was staying at Karl Schödlbauer's house in Poiana Micului while he looked for work. He had just arrived from nearby Clit (Glitt), where he had been living with his family and children since around 1875. Seeing the uncertainty of the participants, Franz excused himself to give his opinion.

“Why don't you go to Brazil?” he asked them. Franz explained that ten years before, his first cousin, Adolf Wolf, had immigrated to Brazil. After living in Colônia São Bento (now São Bento do Sul, Santa Catarina), he had moved to the prosperous town of Rio Negro, in the state of Paraná in 1885.

In Rio Negro, Franz continued recounting, Adolf lived happily because he had a lot of land and his storage barn was always full, with the abundant harvests he had accomplished in a short time. Franz told curious listeners that he was kept well informed through letters exchanged with Adolf, in which he had told how the fertile land and the favorable climate allowed for two, even three harvests a year in Brazil.

He told them there was neither snow nor ice in Brazil. The winter was mild, allowing work without climatic restrictions as

they faced in Bucovina.

Franz Wolf continued to explain that plants grew abundantly in Rio Negro, unimaginable to his listeners. He spoke of several types of potatoes, including the sweet potato, in addition to the potato as we knew. Franz told them about good harvests of good-sized fruits of other plants such as honeydew, watermelon, cassava and chayote.

This news, however, was hardly believable. They looked at each other with doubt; it all seemed too fantastic. They thought that Franz must be joking, or mocking them. This information continued to be increasingly astonishing for those who have no idea what the Americas were like, with such diverse climates. Their expressions showed that they did not believe Franz's enthusiastic descriptions.

Franz added that Brazil had an imperial government, in the person of Dom Pedro II. Like their beloved Franz Josef I of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Dom Pedro was like a true father to his subjects. Additionally, Brazil was an extremely Catholic country, as they were. Despite this information, they still did not believe Franz.

Seeing the skepticism of his friends, Franz told them to write a letter to Adolf Wolf, in Rio Negro, to confirm what Franz had told them, and to ask for any additional information from Adolf. They went to the Priest Vicar for more advice. The Priest Josef Muszinski instructed them to explain their doubts, after which the priest wrote a long letter to Adolf Wolf, in Rio Negro, Brazil.

In response, Adolf confirmed everything that Franz had told them, and added more about Brazil. Adolf made himself available for further guidance, while guaranteeing that they would have his total support and to not worry. He would see that they lacked nothing. Adolf was a friend of the local authorities, and they would welcome the new immigrants with open arms.

They started in earnest to make the necessary arrangements for the great journey to the New World. Because of the inspiration of Franz Wolf and the invitation and guidance of Adolf Wolf, they would emigrate to the town of Rio Negro, in the state of Paraná. With great emotion and God in their hearts, they would begin a new life; a new start for their own future and that of their children and grandchildren, in their new strange and beautiful homeland, the distant and already beloved Brazil.

These first Bukovina settlers to Brazil left Poiana Micului on May 16, 1887, traveling by train through Czernowitz to Bremen, where on May 24, 1887 they departed aboard the SS Ohio, further docking in Antwerp and Lisbon before finally setting sail for Brazil. This group of seven families with a total of 26 children, and one single male disembarked on Flower Island (*Ilha das Flores*) in Rio de Janeiro on June 22, 1887.<sup>1</sup> (See the footnote below for a list of names.)

Time has unfortunately taken from us the letters of Franz and Adolf Wolf. None remain to illustrate this article. Fortunately, the nostalgic son of Karl Schödlbauer, my dear, maternal grandfather, Ignatz Schödlbauer (Schelbauer in Brazil), saved this history from oblivion. He was a person of great vision and community spirit. I have inherited the notes that Ignatz wrote about these and other letters which preserved the history of this migration of Bucovinian settlers from the Gura Humorului region to Brazil. Using this information, I have had the honor to write this report.

At this point I would like to make a small observation. Ignatz Schelbauer married Maria Wolf in 1902 in Rio Negro, Brazil, becoming Adolf Wolf's son-in-law. Maria's sister, Tereza, married Wenzel Seidl in 1898, who had arrived from Bori in 1888 in the second wave of Bukovina immigrants. Their great grandson, Francisco José Seidl, is my cousin and collaborator for this project. Arthur Leite Binder has kindly provided colorized photographs from the families of Adolf Wolf and his wife Maria Six, and from Franz Wolf and his wife Theresia Krickl. Arthur is distantly related to Francisco, their common ancestors also arriving in 1888 from Bucovina. Douglas Reckmann, whose ancestors emigrated from Bucovina to North America, and whose request inspired this article, is distantly related to both Arthur and Francisco.

Thanks to the above documented foresight of Ignatz Schelbauer, I was fortunate to write the history of Bucovinian emigrations to Brazil, in the book "*Os Bucovinos do Brasil ... e a História de Rio Negro*."<sup>2</sup> Ignatz also became a powerful connecting element between Brazil, Bucovina and Germany, through letters and articles he wrote to people and press organizations in Paraná and Czernowitz, the ancient capital of Bucovina. This is, however, another story that I will tell in due course.

Through the above-mentioned book, it has been an honor for me to be a connecting link between Brazil, USA, Germany, Bucovina and other countries, establishing a close and participatory connection with distinguished historians and Bucovina genealogists around the world. It is this collaboration of the faithful guarding and dissemination of the history of our ancestors, their customs, and their traditions, in touch with an ever-expanding circle of immigrant descendants from Bucovina spread around the world, that has generated fruits of great value for our people, their children, and the generations to come.

<sup>1</sup> Footnote: The first Bukovina settlers who immigrated from Poiana Micului to Brazil were:

1. Johann Baumgartner & wife Katharina Schuster, w/ children: Christine, Josef, Karl, Ludwina, & Maria.
2. Karl Schödlbauer & wife Maria "Dodo" Schuster, w/ children: Rosalia, Josef, Ambros, Franz, Ignatz, Regina, & Wenzel.
3. Josef Schödlbauer & wife Rosalia Neuburger.
4. Franz Schödlbauer & wife Paulina Rankl, w/ children: Josef, Maria, & Franz.
5. Franz Schödlbauer & wife Theresia Hones, w/ children: Ludmilla, Rosalia, Maria, & Johann.



6. Jakob Rankl & Rosalia "Minna" Hellinger, w/ children: Minna, Regina, Franz, Martha, Ambros, & Maria.
7. Johann Neuburger & wife Anna Wiegelbauer, w/ child: Anna.
8. Josef Schuster, single.

<sup>2</sup>Celestino, Ayrton Gonçalves. "Os Bucovinos do Brasil... e a história de Rio Negro" (2002)  
Gráfica Progresso. Curitiba PR Brasil.



Family Adolf Wolf & Maria Six (seated), Sons & daughters, sons & daughters-in-law. Above Adolf Wolf, Ignatz Schelbauer & Maria Wolf (in black). (Foto 1918)



Familiy Franz Wolf & Theresia Krickl (seated), Sons & daughters, sons & daughters-in-law, grandchildren and granddaughters. (Foto 1918)

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH RESTORATION

A project to restore the historic church building which houses several community organizations including the Society headquarters and museum completed a fund raising to which Society members were very generous. Although the first attempt at getting a matching grant failed, there are two more grant applications being assembled at this time. In any case, the

funds from the Society, the trustees of the Church trust, and many donors will be intact to do as much as possible. Thanks to the following BSA members for their generosity:

Alvin & Maggie Armbrister  
Verlin & Carol Armbrister  
Steve & Betty Augustine  
Elda M. Backes  
Frank & Jo Collins  
Betty Deutscher  
Wes Fuerch  
Janet & Wilfred Gagnon  
Dennis & Cathy Gaschler  
Allan & Diana Heinle  
Michael & Annette Jaros  
Judi Kingry  
Lillian A. Martin

Van Massirer  
Erle Nielsen  
Doug Reckmann  
John H. Rupp  
Alfred J. Schuster  
Jon Douglas Singer  
Janet Tauscher  
Lois Jean Wagoner  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Brian & Shirley Windholz  
Guy & Kathy Windholz  
Oren & Pat Windholz

## MARTIN BRANDL CHAPEL

By: Sanja Simonić Mati

I hope you will be glad to know that in Bosnia, Opsjeko-Celinac, today Republika Srpska, in the immediate vicinity of the Banja Luka-Kotor Varos road, there is still a chapel of Our Lady on the land of Martin Brandl, born in Bukovina-Bory. It was proclaimed a cultural monument of RS. In the document of the Institute for the Protection of Monuments of Culture and Nature Banja Luka No.448 dated 05.12.1990. it is said that the chapel of the Mother of God in Čelinac is a specific sacral object for the regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The object is a ground-plan, simple rectangular base, small dimensions, built of wooden beams on which slats are slanted, for plastering. It is covered with a double-decked roof and a folded tile with a specially made finish of the front part of the eaves. The chapel, apart from the altar in the interior, has no special decoration, the door facing the street is wooden, simple in design, and the two small windows facing each other are on longitudinal walls. Next to the chapel was a wooden bell tower with a bell that was believed to prevent the storm.

The chapel was built by Martin Brandl in 1895 in his garden in front of a one-story house in Opsjeki on behalf of his vow to provide his community with a place to pray. (As far as I can see, such chapels were characteristic of the settlements of Bohemian Germans in Bukovina and the Czech Republic)

The youngest daughter of said donor Regina Timkov, nee Brandl, (my grandmother) fought for it in 1990 to be designated a cultural monument.

At the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Banja Luka, Regina stipulated that the restoration work must be completed in just one day and that the chapel must be authentic in every sense (both in dimensions and materials) with their supervision.

Considering that the turmoil was in Bosnia at the time,

performing these works was a supreme feat. In order to ensure the continued undisturbed life of the chapel, a plaque was placed at the entrance, stating that the temple belonged to all religions. Its existence represents a lasting testimony to the faith and spirituality of the settled German people in this region. It is open to visitors on Saturdays and Sundays.

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## PINCH OF SALT

By Bro. Placid Gross

Note: Bro. Placid provided a cooking article in the March 2021 Newsletter and following is a site for a news article about him and the Assumption Abbey: <https://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/14/us/14monks.html>

One day in May of 1951, my folks were not home. They had gone to Berlin, ND for the wedding of our cousin, Imelda Aberle, to Clement Long. Our sister Anna Marie was a bridesmaid, so it was proper that she should be there the day before to get her gown ironed and to be assured that she is there in the morning. In those days, the church part always was in the morning. Ann got that honor because she was the daughter of Imelda's godmother.

The folks and Ann left the day before the wedding. Only seven boys were at home with the youngest being four years old. When mother was away, we were allowed to eat whatever we wanted. However, as I remember it, we never spent time making anything fancy. Maybe we just ate jelly bread and fried eggs.

That evening after supper, Andrew said that Richard is supposed to make ice cream. I put away the leftover food and did the dishes. Richard said, "What should I put in?" Andrew said, "Find a cookbook and just follow a recipe."

Richard was one month short of 13 and he was courageous in doing new things. He found a recipe in the cook book that looked like it needed ingredients that we had on hand. He measured out the milk and the cream. He put in the sugar and vanilla and maybe a little egg. Then he asked me "Wie viel ish ahh PINCH salt?" The recipe gave instructions with cups, quarts, teaspoons, and tablespoons etc. but none of our measuring spoons were marked "Pinch." I said "Well, how should I know?"

Then Richard ran up to the barn to ask Andrew. Richard again said "Wie viel ish ahh PINCH?" Andrew said, "Why do you want to know?"

"Well, the book says to put in a pinch of salt."

Andrew said, "It probably does not matter too much, so just put in a 'bissel.'" Richard came back to the summer kitchen and surveyed his mix up to this point. He said, "I still don't know how much 'ish ahh bissel' (how much is a little). I was no help, because I had never cooked anything and had never read a cookbook.

Richard then put in about one fourth of a cup of white salt into the three-gallon size ice cream mixer. I helped get the ice from the ice cellar and helped crank the freezer.

When the other guys came in as the sun was going down, we sat down for an ice cream treat. Oh, Yuck! It was too salty!!! We had been taught not to waste anything. "Spare in time of plenty and you will have in time of need." It would be a waste to give it to the pigs. It was eatable if you concentrated on the creamy texture and the sweetness and coolness of it all, and if you tried hard to not let the saltiness bother you. We ate our fill before bedtime that evening, and we had ice cream for breakfast, for dinner, and for supper the next day. We all ate as much as our stomachs could tolerate.

The folks stayed at the wedding house after the evening dance and came home only on the third day.

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**Dr. Ludwig Stephen Bleyberg**

Born: August 03, 1924 in Czernowitz (Duchy of Bukovina "Little Vienna"), Austria  
Died: August 22, 2018 in Santa Monica, California

It is with immense sadness that the family of Dr. Ludwig Stephen (Steven) Bleyberg announces his peaceful passing during a long, ongoing illness on Wednesday August 22, 2018 in St. John's Hospital at the age of 94. He will be forever remembered by his current wife Maria of 35 years and her daughter JoAnn (Joana) Alcouffe, his only child Michael S. Bleyberg (from his first marriage) as well as his daughter-in-law Jane Bleyberg and his 2 grandchildren Erika Bleyberg and Michael A. Bleyberg.

As a native Austrian, born in a historically significant city that today is still recognized as one of Ukraine's main cultural centers, Steven started his primary education. His father, an attorney in the Austrian diplomatic corps and his mother, a physician played an influential role on his education and upbringing. His gift for languages was quickly recognized both by family and educators. Steven's talent for languages not only benefited him through life, but helped shape his character into the man he became.

Due to the tumultuous times during his teenage years as a consequence of World War II, his father managed to arrange passage for the family through Holland to Mexico in March 1948. Here, in Mexico City, Steven entered dental school. However with his "Wunderlust" in full gear, he came to the USA for the first time via El Paso, Texas through the help of an uncle.

With no prior exposure to English, Steven soon realized that higher education had to be put on hold. He joined the United States Air Force and completed his basic training at Lackland AFB. His talent and ability for acquiring new languages was immediately recognized by his superiors. His active duty time was spent in Germany, Turkey and Austria. In Germany, he met his first wife and had his only child, Michael. After his active duty tour completion, he remained in Germany.

Because of Steven's refugee, fugitive and displaced person status he was allowed to enter the German educational system free of charge. Having had exposure to healthcare in Mexico, Steven started medical school in 1959 at the University of Tübingen, Germany. He graduated in the Summer of 1965.

With the passing of Steven's mother and his father's progressive, poor health, he decided to immigrate with his family to Los Angeles in December 1965. He completed his Internship in San Bernardino and a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency at the VA Wadsworth/UCLA.

Now, Steven was ready for life in America as a practicing physician. Although work defined him from this point forward, he never lost sight of the fragilities of human life. His patients had a deep, genuine appreciation for him. Regardless of their condition, when Steven walked into the room and spoke their native tongue they smiled and asked if he was a "local boy". Throughout his life the ability to turn awkward situations around with the help of languages and humor is what will be missed and remembered by all who knew him.

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