

# Seidl Calendar

## Our Lady of Help, \* Rio Negro, Brazil.



The photo, taken by Werner Zoglauer, represents the religious tradition of the Bukovinian families who immigrated to Brazil. It is a statuette of Our Lady of Help, which originated in the Bohemian Forest and was brought to Brazil by the Adolf Wolf family in 1877. Although destined for settlement in São Bento do Sul (State of Santa Catarina), the family in 1885 later moved to Rio Negro (State of Paraná, Brazil).

The statuette, approximately 40 cm. tall, was sculpted by an unknown artist from a whole block of wood in 1777 and still shows evidence of its original paint. The mother of the household was always in charge of the statuette, which was at first kept in a small chapel. Oral tradition has it that the mother passed the statuette on to one of her daughters, who would pass it on to her daughter in turn. Maria Six Wolf, Adolf's wife, who had brought the statuette from the Bohemian Forest to Brazil, gave it to her daughter Tereza Wolf, who married Wenzel Seidl, and Tereza passed it on to her daughter Verônica Seidl, the wife of Wenceslau Amador Henning. In the absence of daughter, Verônica gave the statuette to her only son, Estanislau Seidl Henning, who has it in his home to the present day.

This artistic piece has been treated against insect damage and submitted for restoration to the Preservation Section of the Department of Historical and Cultural Legacy under the Secretary of Culture for the State of Paraná in Curitiba, where it has been duly registered and classified as an artifact of historical and cultural significance.

For many years the Bukovinians of Rio Negro have displayed the statuette and shown devotion to Our Lady of Help at their solemn religious ceremonies as did their forebears in Europe from time immemorial.

\*Excerpted from Ayrton Gonçalves Celestino, *Os Bucovinos do Brasil* (Curitiba, Brazil, 2002), p. 48. (from the web site [www.bukovinasociety.org](http://www.bukovinasociety.org)).

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# Seidl Calendar



Wedding of Anton Welisch - Emilie Seidl in Bori (Bukovina), 1909 (Photo: by courtesy of Dr. Sophie Welisch)

## BUKOVINIAN TRADITIONS

A wedding, or *Hochzeit* was the biggest social event where the best of food, drink, and music prevailed. Early weddings were held in the home of the bride's parents, usually in the best room of the house. If the home of the groom was larger or closer to town it would be used. In all farm homes, a room was reserved for guests and special occasions. Containing the family's possessions from Bukovina, and the best furniture, young children dared not enter the best room without permission.

When a young couple became serious about each other, the father of the bride had to give his permission to the groom for marriage. Bohemian Germans were surprised to learn of other customs or couples making their own decision. (...)

The "Hochzeit" began when the couple would kneel in front of their parents for the blessing. A white sheet was placed on the floor and the couple would humbly approach their parents as soft music on a violin or organ played. There was not a dry eye in the house. Weddings in the early days were held on a Monday or Tuesday and sometimes lasted two or three days. (...)

Never could a wedding be on Friday because abstinence from meat would prohibit such a celebration. Several days were spent cooking by close relatives. (...) On the way to the church from the home, they sang, *Schön ist die Jugend*.\*

\*(Bohemian Germans in Kansas. A Catholic Community from Bukovina, Oren Windholz, USA, 1993, pgs. 39-40)

### Seidl Calendar

Created for the members and friends of the family Seidl / Seidel / Saidl and for Bukovina / Bukovina / Bucovina descendants and friends throughout the world.

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