



‘Oktoberfest: Texas Style’

**Nov. 4 – Nov. 13, 2011
New Braunfels, Texas**

Wurstfest Association, P.O. Box 310309, New Braunfels, TX 78131-0309

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SEALS PROVIDE LINK TO PRINCE SOLMS

In a strange case of six degrees of separation, Wurstfest style, New Braunfels resident Helgard Suhr-Hollis has an artifact from Braunfels, Germany that some find very interesting – especially if they happen to be Count Johannes Graf von Oppersdorff from Germany, a descendant of Prince Carl Solms of Braunfels. Solms settled New Braunfels in 1845.

The Count visited Wurstfest during its 50th celebration this past year and was very interested when he discovered that Hollis had the official seal of his father, the late Count Hans George Graf von Oppersdorff Solms.

Hollis has the official seal of Prince Solms alongside the official seal of Count Hans George Graf von Oppersdorff Solms, who once lived in Prince Solms’ castle in Germany.

“The Count was very shocked to see it,” she said. “He had never seen it before. I think I must have acquired it in 1995 when we met Count Hans George Graf von Oppersdorff Solms. We had visited Prince Solms castle the year before during the 750th year celebration. I was the only one from Texas at that celebration. The following year in 1995, he visited New Braunfels as part of our 150th anniversary. I think he must have given it to me then.”

The seal of Prince Solms displays a double-headed eagle.

“The double-headed eagle represented the army. He was in the Austrian army,” Hollis said.

The seal of the late Count represents the family crest.

The Wurstfest Association of New Braunfels is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to promote the local economy through tourism and promote and preserve the community’s rich German heritage. Proceeds from the event benefit a wide variety of projects.

Admission to the Wurstfest grounds will be free from 4 to 7 p.m. on opening night, Nov. 4. After 7 p.m., admission to the festival is \$8 at the gate; and children ages 12 and younger will be admitted free at all times. Wurstfest continues through Nov. 13. Group rates, advance discounts and special weekday promotions are available. For information about Wurstfest, call 830/625-9167 or 1-800-221-4369, or visit the Web site at www.wurstfest.com.