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Document Title: Letter from Thomas O. Springer of California to J. C. Brummett, Esq., Hughesville, Missouri, dated February 16, 1909.

Source: Private Family Papers of W. Bruce Springer, 2007.

J. C. Brummett, Esq. was the lawyer for the descendants of John N. W. Springer in Missouri. Mr. Springer followed JNW Springer as the head of the Springer Estate Assoc. (MO/IL). Interesting detail.

Compton Los Angeles Co. Cal. Feb'y 16th 1909.
 J. C. Brummett Esq
 Hughesville Mo.

Yours of Oct. 25th last was duly received & was mislaid & lost until the present time. I will now try to answer it if it is not too late. - In regard to the Springer Estate at Wilmington I must say that there has been but little done in that matter by our St. Louis Association for several years. After the meeting in St. Louis Jan'y 1880 J. & M. C. Springer went to Wilmington to take another look for the Records but we failed to find them and he & Wm. J. Boopier went on from there to London to get up material for his history, & I came back home. J. N. W. Springer & David Gillespie our ally found records for 700 acres near Wilmington & also found where Carl Springer made a lease ^{on the Index to the records} to the Trustees of the Swedes Church at Wilmington but on enquiring of the Clerk for Record "C" where it was said to be recorded he told them that during the revolutionary war the records of that office were all taken to York Penn. for safe keeping & that C & D. had never been returned. In 1873 J. N. W. Springer & myself went on to Wilmington again, I took the Index to the records & found where Carl Springer made a lease to the Trustees of the Swedes Church & ~~it~~ that it was recorded in Book "C" at .a

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Certain page that I have forgotten, On enquiring of the clerk for record "C" it was the same old story of being taken away during the war for safe keeping & not returned. There was an organization formed here at Los Angeles last fall & some 8 delegates went on to Wilmington from different parts of the U.S. three going from here and after they came back reported that Carl Springer never made any lease to the land but that the lease he made was made as trustee for others. But I know that the Index showed that he made the lease in his own name though it did not give a description of the land leased, and we have never been able to find the records. About the year 1871 J. N. Springer came out to my farm in Madison Co. Ill. & told me & my brother that a man by the name of Morris from Ohio had come to St. Louis to see him & that he was at Jefferson City at the Methodist Conference & that Morris followed him up there & told him that he had just come from Wilmington Del. where he had been looking up some property that was coming to him & while looking over the records he came across a lease for 900 acres of land from Carl Springer to the Trustees of the old Swedes Church & that it was given for 99 years & that the lease had expired but eight or nine years previously & that the heirs were entitled to it & that his wife being a Springer he was interested in it & had come to get him to help look up the heirs & get

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possession of it. We then went to Edwardsville our County Seat & saw judges Joseph & David Gillespie & they advised us to call a meeting of the heirs together & employ an attorney & look the matter over. We appointed a place & time of meeting in St Louis & J. N. M. Si wrote to Morris of same & he wrote back that he guessed he was mistaken in regard to that Springer estate at Wilmington & that he had dropped the matter from his mind so we never heard anything more of Morris but we had our suspicions that he had gone back to Wilmington in the mean time & got his share to keep him quiet. While J. N. M. Springer was at Wilmington the first time he got acquainted with a gentleman by the name of Neff who took him on the street & showed him several fine business buildings and told him those houses were all his & that they were all on the Carl Springer property but the heirs would never get possession of them from the fact that they never would find the records of the title and so far as I know they never have found them although I believe they are secreted somewhere in that city in some of the Bank vaults. If they are ever found it will be by some shrewd detective work. Now I have told you in a general way about all we have ever found out about those records & if you should ever get track of them I would esteem it a favor if you will let me know it.

See over

