Permission to copy, quote, distribute this document, and add it to a personal genealogy database is given to individual family history researchers, provided you cite the source as follows: Patricia A. West, "[Document title goes here]," St. Louis: Unpublished manuscript, Year, downloaded from Miller, Springer & Allied Families at www.websitewiz.com/springer.

Document Title: Letter to the "Springer Heirs" of Missouri and Illinois, 1874, from John N.W. Springer and David Gillespie

St Louis, August 18, 1874.

DEAR SIR:

The Committee appointed to examine into and report the condition of the Springer Estate, at Wilmington, Delaware, and also to take such measures as might be necessary to gain the same, either by suit or by compromise, would respectfully report that we have recently been on to Delaware, and made such examination as the circumstances would permit. That, as the result of our investigations up to this time, we find on the Records of New Castle County, in the name of Charles Springer, Six Hundred and Thirty Acres of very valuable land, lying within two or three miles of the city limits of Wilmington, a flourishing city with a population of 40,000 inhabitants; the prospective value of the land, situated as it is, cannot be estimated. We have met with great opposition in our researches, as, being strangers and unacquainted with the lands, we have had to depend on information derived from others, the most of whom are interested in some manner, either by direct interest or by relationship, with the matter of our examination. There are also books and papers missing from the Records at New Castle, whether by design or by accident we cannot say, and it is necessary to a complete chain of the title that we should have either the original or a copy of the last will and testament of Charles Springer, who died in 1738; we have not succeeded yet in obtaining it, but are in hopes, through secret efforts making, to recover the same. We have located the land near Wilmington by running around the different tracts, so as to be perfectly satisfied where the same is situated, although done against the protest of the parties in possession. Whilst at Wilmington, we were informed by old inhabitants that Springer owned a large portion of the city proper, and which was leased by him for 99 years. We have devoted considerable effort to find this lease, but there being so many interested to prevent our finding it we have not as yet succeeded, but are making secret efforts to obtain the desired papers, and think that the chances are good. The Committee, after reviewing the whole ground, think that they have succeeded well, taking into account the length of time the matter has lain and also the influences working against them. They challenge comparison with any other undertaking of a similar character, and insist that they have done well. It will be necessary, to carry the business out to its completion, that the Committee should have funds to assist them in their labors; it will be but a small sum out of each person interested. Matters of this kind cannot be run without money.

If a compromise cannot be effected, it will be necessary to commence suits. Counsel will have to be employed, and this cannot be done unless the persons interested assist in the enterprise. It will be necessary also to have a complete history of the family, to show who are interested in the Estate. You are, therefore, requested to contribute as much as you think you are justified in helping the matter along; also, send in all the information in your knowledge as to heirship. Let us hear from you as soon as possible, as it is desired to commence proceedings in September or October. All communications can be addressed to Rev. J. N. W. Springer, So4 Chestnut Street, St. Louis, Mo.

Thos. O. Springer, one of the Committee, was not with us on our last visit to Delaware, but agreed to what we hould do in the premises.

J. N. W. SPRINGER and DAVID GILLESPIE,

email: wiz@websitewiz.com

**Source**: Private Family Papers of W. Bruce Springer, St. Louis, Missouri, as of 2007. This letter was sent to Sally Glasscock Springer, daughter-in-law of John N.W. Springer. "S.A. Springer" is printed on the reverse of the letter.

John N.W. Springer appears NOT to be a descendant of Swedish immigrant Charles Springer who was in Delaware by 1693. A direct descendant of Rev. John N.W. Springer has had a 37-marker Y-DNA test as part of the Springer Surname Y-DNA Project, and he is does not match the group who can establish descent from Charles Springer of Delaware. This descendant differs on about 12-14 markers out of 37 markers compared with the descendants of Christopher Springer of Sweden, father of Charles Springer who immigrated to Delaware. This Springer group, as of 2007, includes a descendant of Charles's half-brother, Lars Springer, who remained in Sweden, and four American lines who descend from Charles Springer. DNA Groups are established, based on their DNA values, rather than on paper trails.

Please note that the SPRINGER ESTATE lawsuit was a hoax. This letter shows how much time was expended, over a period of about 50 years, by Springers all over the United States, in an attempt to collect money on a bogus claim.

John N.W. Springer was a Methodist minister in St. Louis from about 1850 until he died. Judge David Gillespie, of Edwardsville, Illinois, and Thomas O. Springer, later of Los Angeles, California, were also members of this committee.

A letter, dated April 1, 1908, from Thomas O. Springer to Mr. H. T. Springer (grandson of John N.W. Springer) is also available on this Web site at www.websitewiz.com/springer/.