This is the journal of John Harvey Doran, a carpenter and builder at Springfield, Greene County, Missouri. The brief entries in his journal concern his business activities, news of family and friends, and events at Springfield from 13 August 1864 to 24 September 1865.

John Harvey Doran’s business appears to have been good during the period covered by his journal. He framed houses, installed window glass, completed various carpentry projects, and worked on a new mill building for customers including C. B. Holland, Joseph Gott, A. G. Leedy, and Charles Moss. He also made coffins for several individuals, one of whom was a refugee. He worked alone and with A. G. Leedy in the firm styled Leedy & Doran.

Doran’s journal includes several entries concerning the military activities around Springfield in September and October 1864. Doran was called out with the local militia during Sterling Price’s Missouri Expedition, and, until the emergency passed, spent much of his time working on Fort No. 5 on the eastern side of town. He also performed guard duties. There is an unexplained gap in the journal from 24 October 1864 through 12 January 1865. There is considerably less military news in the entries for 1865, reflecting the winding down of the war in Missouri, but Doran did note his enrollment in the newly-constituted Missouri Militia, the firing of cannons to celebrate the captures in Virginia of Petersburg and Richmond, the receipt of the news of Lincoln’s assassination and the closure of business houses in Springfield on the following day, and the military execution of one Brownlee. In August 1865, Doran attended the trial of James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok (whom he called “Haycock”) for the killing of Dave Tutt, but did not elaborate on the trial or its outcome.

Selected Entries

1864

04 Sep  Rev. Wines preached his last sermon at the Presbyterian Church. [This was probably Fred H. Wines, a former Union army chaplain and superintendent of refugees at Springfield.]
09 Sep  Cannons fired in honor of the capture of Atlanta
10 Sep  Heard Col. Phelps speak
15 Sep Heard news of Price’s Expedition; made coffin for refugee; saw man executed
25 Sep Militia ordered into camp
26 Sep Reported on court square, detailed for work on Fort No. 5
27 Sep Worked on Fort No. 5; drew rations
01 Sep Worked on Fort No. 5
07 Oct Worked on Fort No. 5
10 Oct- Guard details through 22 Oct

[no entries 24 October 1864--12 January 1865]

1865

21 Jan Summoned on jury duty
20 Feb Stockade at College burned down
07 Mar Mill burned down
28 Mar Enrolled in militia
04 Apr Cannons fired in honor of captures of Petersburg and Richmond, Va.
15 Apr Received news of Lincoln’s assassination
16 Apr Town in mourning; businesses closed early on 17th
10 May Went to see Brownlee executed
17 May Joined Good Templers
01 Jun Presidential day of fasting
06 Jun Voted against new state constitution
19 Jun Worked at courthouse for Good Templers
04 Jul Built stage for band; marched in procession
05 Aug Went to court to hear “Haycock’s” trial
26 Aug Witness in case of Ritchman and McQuarter
28 Aug Trial of Wack[?] & Freeman

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