

# THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

## for February 14 - 20

WYDaily.com ran an article concerning the Trade Shop moves. Here is the link: <http://wydaily.com/2016/01/31/local-news-colonial-williamsburg-historic-tr>

**Apothecary** – Both Robin and Sharon will be working on their programs for Women's History Month.

**Armoury** –

**Blacksmith** – They are making about 10 hand railings for the various new trade shops to bring them up to code, producing handles and hinges for a chest being built by the Joiners, finishing tools for Great Hopes and the Carpenters, and making nails, rivets, etc. for an ox wagon being built by the Wheelwrights.

**Tin Shop** – They are working on lanterns for the new trade shops and Coach and Livestock. Some of the apprentices are making gill cups, boxes, and coffee pots.

**Artificer** – They are finishing cartridge boxes for the target range and will be making a few fire buckets for the fire engine. A vast pile of repairs is expected from Fife and Drum. Recruitment for this year's interns goes on.

**Basketmaker** – They will continue to work on in-house requests: baskets for Great Hopes, the Foundry, and the A.I.s. They are also always trying to keep items in the Prentis.

**Bindery** – They are working on the design for a book entitled, Four Centuries of Quilting, making books for the Prentis Store, folding paper for ledgers, and continuing to bind law books for the Capitol.

**Cabinetmaker** – On Monday, they will continue working on the brass-banded mahogany tea caddy, a tripod music stand, and an easy chair frame. The harpsichord makers will continue work on components for a spinet. The shop will then be closed for maintenance February 16<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Candlemaker** – They are acquiring tools, studying the layout of the site, and writing procedures. Applications have been received and the review process started.

Heidi from the Tool Shop will provide knives in addition to refurbishing the

dipping equipment.

Janea from the Milliner produced a prototype apron, protective equipment which promises to work well.

Chris from the Blacksmith will produce or modify a ladle and strainer for cleaning the wax.

Kaare from the Cabinetmaker advised on authentic whetstones, uncommon tools in the 21st century.

Steve from the Tin Shop will produce two tin buckets suitable for small dipping operations.

Ed from Great Hopes has added a tripod to the iron pot he is tendering to the Candlemaking Shop, greatly enhancing shop capabilities.

And the list goes on and on. The Candlemakers are pleased to take opportunity to shed a little light on the industry and generosity of the men and women of Trades and Skills. Rarely has a single Candle Shop owed so much to so many.

**Carpenters** – They are finishing repairs on the cowshed behind the Randolph House. They will be installing a new floor at the Armoury workshop next.

**Cooper** – They recently finished converting and repairing an old barrel for the Animal Husbanders to use in hatching some eggs. The Husbanders would be able to explain this period process of using animal manure as the heat source. It sounds very interesting, and it should be quite the conversation piece. The completed barrel is represented in the picture below, and you may also notice that the large cistern for the Fire Engine Program is underway in the background.

**Dance** – The JI Expo was a big “Smash Hit!” The young applicants will be coming to Dance Classes to see if they are truly interested. The JI Dance Training is spread out through the remainder of Winter and Spring to prepare for Summer programming.

The Dance SIs at the Raleigh are having a great time with Guests. It is feast or famine in terms of the Guest attendance (a few couples or large school groups), so these extra Colonial Dancers are helping to bring things to life in the Apollo Room! The Guests really enjoy “Dancing with the Colonials!”

**Fifes and Drums** – The Fife and Drum Senior Corps is currently working on new music for their participation in the Virginia International Tattoo held in Norfolk this April. The Junior Corps and recruits are back in classes after a month-long break and are preparing for their return to the Restored Area and weekly performances later this month.

**Foodways** – Join Historic Foodways as they venture into the world of “Sugar, Spice and All Things Nice” at the Governor’s Palace Kitchen on Saturday, February 13th. Learn the secrets of the confectioner as they demonstrate making confections throughout the day. Marvel at the beauty of an 18th-century dessert table. The high point is when the guests get to help make an 18th-century confection! There will be two hands-on classes taking place in the Scullery. The Apothecary will also be featuring confections in the medical world throughout the day.

**Great Hopes** - Work continues on the new rail fence, improvements to the hog lot, and spreading compost in the gardens. Stef Dunn is working with the Millinery staff this week.

**Gunsmith** – They are all moved in and open for business. They are getting the forge repaired and ready for the first fire in 8 years. Work continues on the pair of pistols and a rifle. Thank you to the Tin Shop for making pipe for the bellows and Lisa and her oxen for delivering their load of coal.

**Historic Garden** – The garden is getting ready for spring! The hotbed and the spring seedlings are coming along, although the temperature in the bed is cooling down. The ground is being prepared for planting peas before Valentine’s Day. They are also getting ready for the second hotbed, which will start the summer plants, by clearing it out and getting ready to collect the manure again.

**Military Programs** – They are currently preparing for a very busy season! With programming at the Military Encampment, Armoury, Acting Programs, and the Magazine, preparations are ongoing. Military Programs is preparing to offer a fond farewell to John Hill, Kent Brinkley, and Dale Smoot, and looking forward to taking on more staff to help with the coming programming. Military Programs is also joining the new Target Range staff for much of their preparation, to step into their new role as extra instructors for the range, as needed. There are also talks going on currently on a variety of subjects in the Guard House at 11:00am Thursday through Monday. Military Retreats began Friday the 12th. They are also commencing clearings for all current Militia members for both musket and cannon, and preparing to take on new members in the coming months.

**Milliners and Mantua-makers** – They will be continuing their project proposals for Martha Washington’s wedding gown and Quaker clothing for the Museum of the American Revolution.

**Printers** – The pressmen are printing off blank Tobacco Crop notes and Transfer notes that will eventually be sold in the Post Office.

**Target Range** – The Target Range has undergone rapid development in the last few weeks. Interviews have been completed for 3 range master and 3 firearms instructor positions, and they are hopeful about some very strong candidates. The grounds are nearly completed, and all equipment has either been acquired or is in the process of being built. Range safety courses are coming up for all new range staff, along with the staff of Military Programs. They are on track to be ready to open by the March deadlines!

**Wheelwright** – They are working on an ox wagon for children’s rides.

**Wigmaker** – Debbie is still working on weaving and attaching the wefts of hair to her German reproduction wig. Regina is continuing to clean, repair, and restyle wigs for actors/actresses, dancers, and musicians. Betty is beginning work on designing 2 falls (half wigs) for the new program starting in late February, “Affairs of the Heart”. Terry is blending and weaving hair for a hairpiece (ladies curls) that will be assigned to Whitney Thornberry, one of our actresses.



# Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Trade Shops to Expand Along DoG Street

[WYDaily.com](http://wydaily.com) is your source for free news and information in Williamsburg, James City & York Counties.



The Windmill of Colonial Williamsburg once stood behind the Peyton Randolph House, but is scheduled to make a new home at Great Hopes Plantation. (Photo courtesy Colonial Williamsburg)

Colonial Williamsburg is kicking off an expansion of the Historic Trades department with the relocation of four of the historic area's most popular shops.

In the coming months, all four of the shops – the gunsmith, joiner, weaver and tailor – will be moving into their own independent structures as part of an effort to offer more demonstrations and hands-on programming throughout the Historic Area.

“These moves will create an increased density of trades and other activity along Duke of Gloucester Street so that a guest exiting one site is not more than a couple doors from another active site,” Colonial Williamsburg Director of Historic Trades Peter Seibert said. “The moves also provide the shops a welcome opportunity to expand and to grow in new ways.”

The announcement comes about a week after [Colonial Williamsburg Foundation announced it would cut about 60 jobs](#) – most of which occurred “higher up in the chain of command” and in hospitality services, according to a letter to employees from foundation President Mitchell Reiss – in its mission to refocus on the Historic Area, particularly the costumed interpreters and other educational initiatives.

The Gunsmith Shop and the Foundry, which until recently were both located at the James Geddy

Foundry, are separating with the relocation of the gunsmith to the Ayscough House on Blair Street. The new location opens today, while the Foundry will remain at its previous location.

A week later the Joiner Shop, previously located at the Ayscough House, will reopen at the Taliaferro-Cole Shop on Duke of Gloucester Street at the former site of the weaver. It will also separate administratively from the carpenter under recently promoted Master of the Shop Ted Boscana, according to a recent news release from Colonial Williamsburg.

The series of moves will be rounded out in April with the relocation of the weaver and the tailor. The weaver will move to the Greenhow Tenement on Duke of Gloucester Street at Market Square; the tailor will vacate the Margaret Hunter Shop in the millinery to the Durfey Tailor Shop near Merchants Square.

The series of switch-ups is the beginning of big changes for the Historic Trades over the course of 2016, the release states. Visitors to Colonial Williamsburg can expect to see the return of candle-making over Easter weekend and the [reopening of the Windmill of Colonial Williamsburg](#) later in the year.

Work continues on the restored Windmill near Great Hopes Plantation. After completion of the structure and site, milling of corn and interpretation are expected to begin when the site opens late in 2016.

“Our world-renowned Historic Trades are experiencing a renaissance, which reflects our renewed commitment to bring the Historic Area to life in engaging, multisensory ways that make the past relevant and immediate,” said Ted Maris-Wolf, Colonial Williamsburg vice president of research and historical interpretation. “Each trade shop conveys distinctive aspects of 18th-century science, technology, and artistry through opportunities to see, hear, smell, and touch bespoke items that represent everyday life during a critical period in American history.”

[Colonial Williamsburg](#)



**Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Trade Shops to Expand Along DoG Street** added by [Elizabeth Hornsby](#) on January 31, 2016

[View all posts by Elizabeth Hornsby →](#)

## Comments