

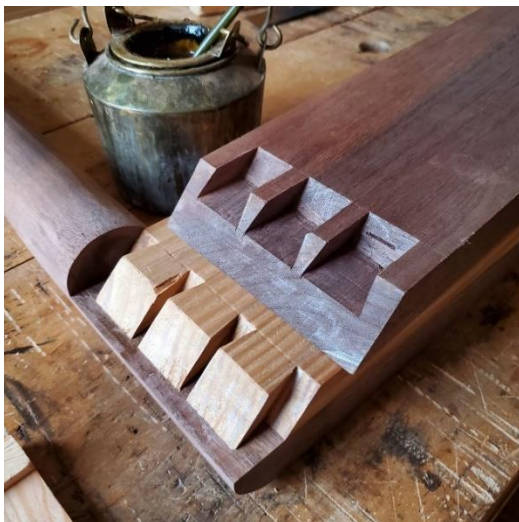
THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

February 11, 2023

Anthony Hay Shop:

Cabinetmaker – Things are settling back down in the Cabinet Shop with this year's conference now behind us. John has resumed work on his walnut side chairs and is moving along quite well with fitting and shaping parts for the chair backs, and Bill has returned to working on his mahogany writing desk.

Jeremy has made good progress over the past couple weeks on his corner table. The table is now standing on its own three legs with a bottom nailed on. The final stage is to complete making the triangular tops. One top is attached to the main table with a pair of hinges, which effectively turns the entire table into a standing, lidded box. The second top is a drop leaf which hangs down in front of the table. It will be hinged to the first top with a rule joint along the long edge of the tabletop. The entire table is really quite unique and has been a great skill-building exercise. One of the skills Jeremy was able to explore was cutting dovetails in a 45-degree corner joint. In the Shop, we frequently employ dovetails at 90-degree joints, but seldom do we find ourselves straying into other angles. This was a good opportunity to revisit the procedure of dovetailing and really focus on it a little more.





All three Cabinetmakers have also been making time in their schedules to attend the staff Winter Symposium training going on this month at the Hennage Auditorium. There has been a lot of good historical information shared, and we look forward to more still to come.

The Cabinetmaker and Harpsichordmaker is open Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday through Saturday.

Apothecary – This week, we all continue to attend winter trainings. Margaret gave a Public Hospital lecture segment on February 7th and is excited to reprise it for the second training session on the 14th. Continuing his research into specialty subjects, Mark will be preparing and performing a lecture for a group of rheumatology professionals in May (including a discussion on gout, his personal favorite subject.) Sharon found an intriguing entry in the Galt-Barraud Account Book - a double amputation performed for "Jacob" under John Allen's 1786 account. According to the entry, the doctors were paid for a month's worth of care, and that month's care cost Allen 22 pounds 10 shillings. We don't have a daybook for 1786, so this is the first mention of this case, and we're still wondering about Jacob's identity - a fascinating case!

The Apothecary Shop is open Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Armoury:

Blacksmith – **The Blacksmith Shop is open Saturday. It will be closed February 6-17 for maintenance.**

Tinsmith – **The Tin Shop is open Saturday. It is closed February 6-17 for maintenance.**

Brickmaker – This week, the Brickyard crew continued their efforts to unstack the kiln as more pallets of brick make their way to the soon-to-be Bray School site. As the kiln shrinks, we begin to see the color variation of well-fired bricks going from a red to a deep brown. Soon, the tunnels themselves will be the only part left to unstack!

Otherwise, this week, Journeyman Kenneth and Apprentice Nick paid the Blacksmith Shop a visit to fix some brickwork. With the Shop closed, they were able to lay some bricks, fix up a forge, and redo some paving.



The Brickyard is open Sunday through Thursday, weather permitting.

Carpenter – This week, the Carpenters have continued to work on the Farm site. We should be finished up next week. We've got the door widened, cut to height, and hung. We've also continued to make half lapped boards for the shuttered windows. Mary and Harold have only a couple more courses of clap boards to install. We're all happy to be this close to the end of the project.



The Carpenters will primarily be at the Carpenter's Yard Tuesday through Saturday, weather permitting.

Colonial Garden – The true harbingers of spring in the Garden are the appearance of the first daffodil and the cleaning of pastures of manure for the first hotbed. With warm temperatures, it made for easy work. Once the bed of the truck is full, the contents are moved to the Garden, where it is piled high with a mix of hay and some water. We have found that dry piles do not begin to break down and give off heat. Many thanks to Coach and Livestock for the horse manure.

This week, cauliflower was harvested and taken to the Palace Kitchen, where I am sure it will be

cooked and presented in only the very best way. Training continues with the Winter Symposium, and everyone in the Shop has a research project that they are working on. In the winter season, we close to the public two days a week, but we still must tend to the Garden with opening the cold frame, hot beds, and uncovering the lettuce and parsley. Watering the cold frame where lettuce and onions are germinating with warm water and checking for slugs on lettuce all still need to be done daily. We order seeds and supplies and tend to all the usual Shop maintenance like first aid kits. Spring is close by.



Harvest of cauliflower



First pasture cleanings for the hotbed

The Colonial Garden is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, weather permitting.

Cooper – Asking about the projects in the Cooper's Shop, our Apprentice, Jackie, is currently working on a tub for the Palace Kitchen. The walls are done and the bottom is underway.



The Cooper Shop is open Sunday, Monday, and Thursday through Saturday.

Engraver – In the Engraving Shop this week, we have been enjoying the training classes. William has been working steady on his ships copperplate, and Lynn has been working on some custom orders and finished up the buckle pattern for the Founders to use.

The Engraving Shop is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Fifes and Drums – We made it through our Annual Meeting! For all of January, Staff at F&D has been preparing for our meeting with every Corps member and their parents. We talked about the year we've had, did a set of annual trainings, planned for the year ahead, and gave out awards to truly outstanding Corps members. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event run smoothly, especially our trainers, Laura Sinclair, Katherine Pitts, Burke Humphrey, and Mike Capone! Among the topics discussed was a change to our spring schedule. Starting in mid-March, we'll be marching Wednesday-Saturday. Saturday will be a march from the Capitol to the Palace, followed by the kids themselves doing an interpretation on their instruments for Guests. We ended our meeting with announcing the 2023 winners of our Memorial Awards. Congratulations to David Degaraff, Isabel Kantor, and Duncan Pavlak! Another round of congratulations to the Junior and Senior Corps winners of the Outstanding Achievement Award, David Degaraff and Chase West! Staff thanks you all for your hard work over the past year and for the excellent role models you have been for your peers! That's all for now as we buckle down to prepare for President's Day(s) with the Senior Corps.

Foodways – **The Palace Kitchen is open Sunday, Monday, Friday, and Saturday.**

Foundry – We actually have to start with some news from a couple weeks ago that we missed: Apprentice Leanne completed her first brass pour! Again, we just melted some scrap into ingots, but she was able to get used to the feel of a different metal, and we were able to clear up some clutter. This week, we were able to share our expertise a little more than usual. Journeyman Mike had the chance to Zoom call with a 5th grader and his mom from California who decided to pick brass casting as his research project for his school's Colonial Day! We also sent along some photos and a video of some casting so he could get a better idea of what it's like. Apprentice Drew and Leanne also got a chance to pass along some knowledge when Alex from Military Programs came down to our Shop to learn more about musket ball casting. We're also looking forward to

some brand new projects with preparations underway for our part of Apprentice Wheelwright Murphy's plow project.



The Foundry is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (11:30-4:30).

Gunsmith – The Gunsmith Shop is open Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday.

Historic Farming – Earlier this month, Farmer Ed gave a presentation to all CW interpretive staff at the Hennage Auditorium as part of the Winter Symposium. The theme is “Connecting to Historic Agriculture”. Shown in the photos are the first segment in which the audience is encouraged to connect with farming as part of one’s own history and the history of Virginia in the 18th century. The message in this part is that we are all farmers through our connection to farming, whether we think of it at breakfast, lunch, or dinner; through our great-great-grandparents who farmed with horses like mine; or the people that we interpret here at Colonial Williamsburg. Farming is at the core of their existence and ours as well. It is what made the colonial Capital of Williamsburg possible.

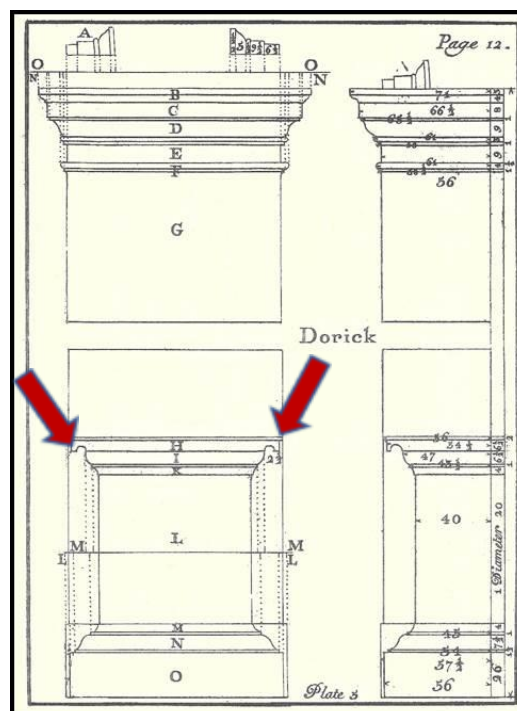


Ed connects the audience with farming, “You are the farmer” (left). Interpreters portraying real people share their connection with farming, “They are the farmers” (right).

Joinery – Hello everyone. It's been a little quiet in the Shop Guest-wise, but we're keeping busy with many projects and a bit of training. Laura is working on one of her apprenticeship requirements by making a dovetailed box in the form of a drawer for her workbench. For the next few weeks, Peter is studying painted furniture at Winterthur Museum in Delaware. He'll be back the week of February 19th. Though much of Scott's time this week has been spent in training, he has made progress on the framing members for his corner cupboard's door. Brian is finishing work on his Woodworking Symposium 2023 pilaster project, before moving on to the Bray School, and a few in-house projects.



Above is a moulding Brian created for the pedestal. It's held upside down in a "sticking board" to help plane the moulding. You can see in the picture below part "H" is the piece being worked. From *The Magnum of Parvo*, Halfpenny.



A particularly beautiful shot of the Bray School move taken by our Apprentice, Laura Hollowood.



The Joinery is open Monday through Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Leather Breeches Maker – The Leather Breeches Maker is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Military Programs – In addition to divisional trainings this week, Military Programs has been working on preparing for upcoming Hennage Talks as well as putting the finishing touches on site cleanup and reorganization of the Guardhouse. We are looking forward to hearing Alex's upcoming talk on defenses of the Delaware river in April. Chris Grieb has been diligently working on advancing his knowledge of gun repair and is in the midst of refinishing two different muskets for the Department. Chris is also getting ready for an upcoming class in June at the 2023 NMLRA Gunsmithing Seminar. He will be taking a six-day class entitled "18th-Century Carving Practices & Techniques" with gunsmith Mike Miller. He is beginning the process of learning gun repair with some basic inletting and tool sharpening. Kevin is working diligently on his research project for the summer to be presented at the Hennage, as well. Ren continues to collaborate with Michael Ramsey on their 71st Highland Professional Development Grant project, which is producing some interesting insights on POWs in Virginia. Matt is initiating one of his reading goals for the year, working toward completing his first stage of the Military curriculum.

Military Interpretation at the Guardhouse is open Daily.

Milliner and Mantua-maker – In between sessions of winter training, work continues on our projects for First State Heritage Park in Delaware. The blue silk gown is nearing completion, with half of the skirt now attached. All that remains is to stitch in the other half, attach the shoulder straps, and sew the hem, so it should be finished next week. Our March "Disaster Strikes!" program is rapidly approaching, but we've also made some headway this week on our long list of garments to be completed for that, including finishing up a petticoat, an apron, and some ruffles. We're also proud to



report that our NIAHD Intern, Ishbel, has completed her first project as well: a silk workbag to store her sewing tools.

In behind-the-scenes news, we spent Tuesday morning filming a segment for our upcoming Livestream. The Livestream will focus on the concept of sustainability in fashion - remaking garments, updating trims, upcycling fabrics - and will integrate the three-gown project we did for "Gown in a Day" this past summer. To introduce the audience to our process and the research that went into creating the program and the gowns that it featured, we wanted to include a short video that shows the extant 1810 gown and our study approach while in Collections. Many thanks to Neal Hurst for making this possible, and for the Livestream team (especially Bill, Lane, and Justin) for their patience in listening to us gush about an old gown all morning.

The Milliner and Mantua-maker will be open Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday.

Musket Range – The Musket Range has conducted 90% of our interviews to fill our two open positions for Musket Range Instructor. Jeff is beginning to work through the process of learning Kronos as a new Supervisor, as well as attending Ted Boscana's *Trust and Inspire* Leadership training this week. Scott is also endeavoring to learn gun repair, alongside Chris Grieb from Military Programs, to enable the Musket Range to be more self-sufficient. He has begun learning inletting starting with a side plate as well as starting to learn basic sharpening. Scott is also looking forward to attending a class at the NMLRA Gunsmithing Seminar in Bowling Green, Ohio, in June to take a six-day class entitled "Assembly & Finishing of a 1760's Colonial Kit Rifle or Southern Iron Mounted Rifle Kit by Jim Kibler" with gunsmith instructor Wayne Trout. In addition, the Musket Range is still selling enough to keep Jeff and Scott busy in every other moment. We're so very looking forward to having some new folks coming on board!

The Musket Range is open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday with sessions at 9:30am, 11am, 1:30pm, and 3pm.

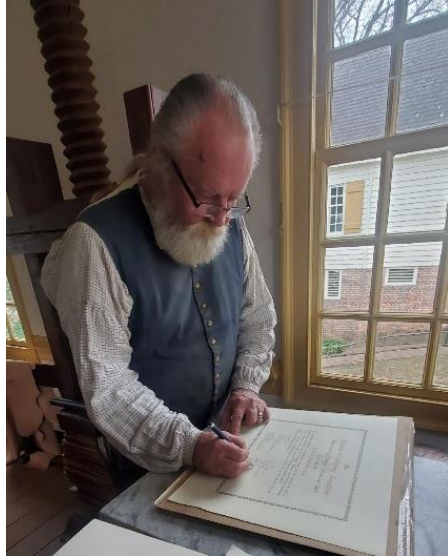
Printer and Bookbinder:
Printing Office –



Charlotte Larsen from The College of William and Mary setting type for a broadside containing the lyrics for a new song regarding events in Boston Harbor, December of 1773.

The Printing Office is open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Bindery – Good day from the Bookbindery. When applicable, the Colonial Williamsburg Printing Office creates our Master and Journeyman Certificates. The type for these certificates was meticulously set by Journeymen Chad Jones and David Wilson. The typeface is Caslon. The paper pictured here was handmade in Kent, England, and may be of interest as the mill at which it was produced closed decades ago. As usual, I am in awe of my multi-faceted and talented colleagues. Cheers!



Dale Dippre signing a Journeyman Certificate

The Bookbindery is open Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday.

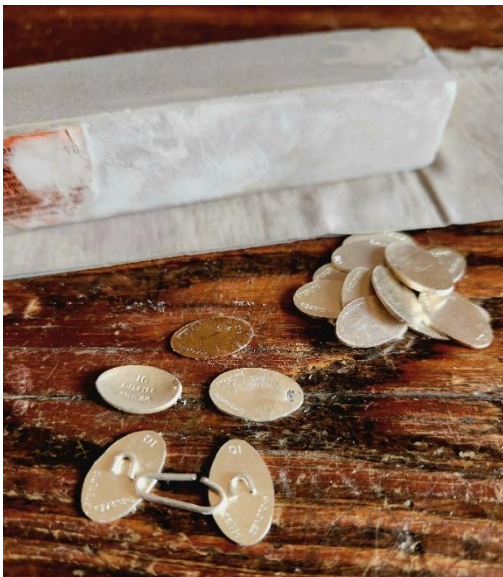
Shoemaker – The Shoemakers have been taking advantage of our Research Day falling on Thursdays to attend sessions of the Winter Symposium. In the Shop, Val has been preparing us for upcoming projects by transporting and clicking (cutting) sole bends. He's currently starting a pair of common shoes for Tim Logue. Nicole finished a pair of common shoes for Teal Brooks, and the Blacksmiths kindly made rims to reinforce the heels. Victoria is putting the finishing touches on a pair of heeled slippers before starting her first pair of dancing pumps. All three Shoemakers have cobbling to do alongside new work. The Leather Breeches Makers continue to be gracious hosts, and we're doing our best to avoid staining their lovely buff leather with our Shoemaker's wax!





The Shoemakers will be working at the Leather Breeches Maker Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Silversmith – The Silversmiths are once again busy silversmithing. Megan continues to work on her bowl, the base of which is coming along nicely. She and Bobbie are also working on sleeve buttons for the Milliner and Mantua-maker's upcoming March program. We would like to thank the Blacksmiths for making us a punch to use in the making of some of the sleeve buttons. Chris has been diligently working on cleaning up the solder on her tray feet and filing some small imperfections away. Bobbie continues chasing and setting the well of her tray. Preston has polished a number of jewelry pieces for the retail store and is helping Megan with the vase of her bowl. George continues work on his mote spoons and ingots. Bobbie and Chris ventured to Collections to study sleeve buttons for the Shop to reproduce.



Megan's sleeve buttons in progress



Chris's tray



Bobbie's tray



Preston's trade silver and bottle tickets



George's mottled spoons

The Silversmith Shop will be open Sunday through Wednesday and Saturday.

Tailor – The Tailor Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing – Annie's huck is off the loom, which means it's time to set up the next project! We will be making an all-brown bed rug for a customer. We often get asked how long it takes to set up our looms, and we generally budget an hour per hundred threads. This could take days or hours depending on the project at hand. Luckily, this bed rug should only take three hours. Pictured is the warp on our mill.



The Weaving Shop will be open Sunday through Wednesday and Saturday.

Wheelwright – We apologize for the lack of updates, but the Shop has been busy. Other than the mandatory Winter Symposium sessions, we have continued on the Velocipede, nearly finishing the front wheel. We are also building a Market cart for Coach and Livestock to deliver feed and transport critters about the town.



Front wheel of the Velocipede (left). An image from W. M. Pyne's *Microcosm* (center). Murphy testing the cart seat (right).

The Wheelwright Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Wigmaker – Greetings and salutations! The Wig Shop doesn't have much new to report this week, as we have been deep into Winter Symposium training. Edith continues to make progress on her Journeyman wig, while Benton continues to separate and frizz his horsehair. General maintenance is ongoing, and we've begun some early Spring cleaning of both the Shop and John Coke Office. On that note, we have seven cloth covered wig boxes with zipper fronts that we're willing to part with if anyone has a need for them. Just reach out to Debbie if you're interested. As always, feel free to ask if you have any tonsorial needs or questions.

The Wig Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

The Mechanick's Adviser is a publication of the Colonial Williamsburg Department of Historic Trades & Skills.

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