

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

March 4, 2022

Apothecary – Margaret made an infusion of cinnamon and a decoction of Peruvian bark. She also discovered some late 18th-century correspondence that mentions that John Galt went to a warm spring for several months for aches and pains. Perfect info for our upcoming livestream. Mark has started working on the requirements for Apprenticeship Level 4. Sharon has been working with our site accounts. Robin has been working with Janea on the script for our livestream next week. It is a collaboration on fashion and health. Eighteenth-century doctors prescribed a variety of activities for patients that included exercise, travel, and bathing in a warm or cold spring. We will be featuring appropriate attire for these activities as well as some job-related clothing that was designed for health care providers. All of the clothing featured in the livestream was made by the Milliners utilizing a variety of primary sources. Staff from both sites will be the modeling the ensembles.

The Apothecary Shop will be open Tuesday through Saturday.

Armoury:

Blacksmith – (Two Shop staff members each sent in a submission this week. Both of them have been included here.) The sounds of work at the Anderson Blacksmith Shop are never ending; and with the bellows successfully repaired and replaced at the third forge, the smiths are just a little more jubilant. Ken has been filing and filing and filing again on cheerful chisels for Gunsmiths, Cabinetmakers, and other woodworkers. Mark has continued work on super saw tillers and is working on a small lock for the Cabinet Shop, too. Aislinn has been at work on pleasant patens, splendid slide bolts, and parts for the Wheelwrights' lovely lathe. That plucky plough, the pride of Prentis Field, has been fully plated by Alex. Broadus has dandy drawknives in the works, and both continue their work on happy hinges. Owen's ravishing rakes are sure to enrapture their recipients. The smiths will keep smiling as all's well that falls well at the foot of the anvil.





Greetings from the Anderson Forge! Lately, the Shop has been stirred up with lots to do for work near and far. The Apprentices continue to make headway in their forgings: Alex has finished replacing the iron wear plates on the plow's mouldboard for Farmer Ed. Next, he will work on the coulter, while continuing his hinges. Broadus, too, has been forging away at hinges, assembling trivets, and working on draw knives. Owen is nearly done with another rake. The Journeymen have been busy as ever: Aislinn has worked on parts for the Wheelwright's lathe, slide bolts, and gate-stops, and Mark continues work on the pitsaw tillers. Master Ken has much filing to do on many chisels for the Gunsmiths and Harpsichord-makers. To say the very least, but without too much boasting, All's well that falls well at the foot of the anvil.

The Blacksmith Shop will be open Daily.

Tinsmith – This week in the Publick Armoury Tin Shop, Master Steve has been working on cups for Prentis Store, based off of one found archaeologically at Fort Ligonier in Pennsylvania; writing a draft outline for upcoming S.T.E.M.-based livestream programming; and recently presented on reconstructing an object based on imagery at the Hennage Auditorium. Journeyman Joel has been constructing lids for small saucepans and researching the economic and social context of the Armoury Tin Shop via civilian and commercial networks of tinware and tinsplate supplies, as well as the material resources flowing into the Publick Armoury from the Williamsburg Public Store and their implications for the workers there. Apprentice Jenny has been completing work on coffee pots and starting work on chocolate pots for her apprenticeship and preparing for Women's History Month programming.

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

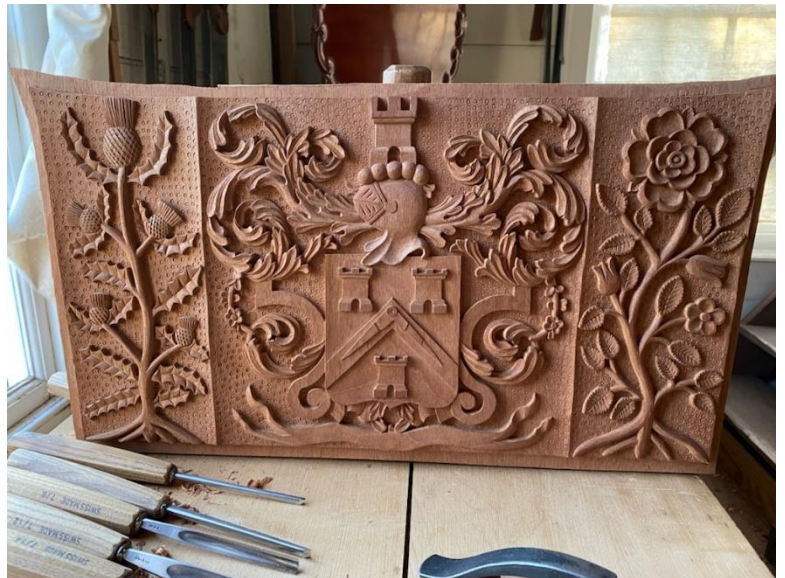
Anthony Hay Shop:

Cabinetmaker – In the Cabinet Shop this week, we have once again begun enjoying the opportunity to allow Guests to interact with the furniture in our wareroom. Most of the furniture has sat untouched for almost two years now, and it feels good to allow people to open drawers and doors again.

Speaking of drawers, Jeremy has begun making the final drawers for his desk. There will be six small drawers in the gallery of the desk and bookcase he and John have been reproducing. This week has been spent preparing material, and now it's time to cut the remaining dovetails in this project. Once these drawers are completed, the final big task will be to make the fall front writing surface.

John has moved on from the bookcase to begin construction of a mahogany drop leaf dining table. He is still in the very early stages of research and material prep, so pictures should follow in the coming weeks.

Bill has completed his reproduction carving of the top panel from the Masonic Lodge Six chair, which is on display at the Art Museum, and he is now designing a suitable frame to display it in. Instead of building the entire chair, he chose this small piece of it to demonstrate the work involved in producing the carving seen on the original chair.



The Cabinetmaker and Harpsichord-maker Shop will be open Sunday through Thursday.

Brickmaker – This week in the Carpenters Yard saw the completion of the brick plinth followed by two successful test runs of our workshop AND a trip to Coach and Livestock. This workshop, *Daub to Dough*, will be active the first three weeks in April!

In preparation, Apprentice Nick powered through the trials and tribulations of bricklaying in the cold. Then he took on his favorite task, pushing around the clay needed for the Workshop. Then, Apprentice Madeleine got her first taste of treading clay. It appears that treading in the cold is not as glamorous as it may seem. We also took a short trip to Coach and Livestock to acquire some straw. We were forlorn until Apprentice Stud Groom Taylor delivered a sturdy bushel to us. Then came the days of the Workshop, where we were joined by Trades people from the Apothecary Shop, the Farm, Foodways, Harpsichord-Maker, and Silversmith. They worked together under the instruction of Journeyman Kenneth and Apprentice Nick to create what is essentially an inverted basket which is then covered with cloth and then a thick mixture of straw and clay. Then they learned how to create something which humankind has harnessed over the ages ... fire! This was achieved using flint and steel, with the flammable medium of charcloth to catch the sparks. We have started to dry out the second cobb oven made to potentially cook in next week.

In other exciting news, any interested party can find a listing for Summer Casuals for the Brickyard under Williamsburg Foundation Jobs.



Carpenter – The Carpenter’s Yard will be open Monday through Saturday, weather permitting.

Colonial Garden – The Colonial Garden continues to evidence signs of Spring! Joining the daffodils (*Narcissus*) and crocuses (*Crocus*) in bloom are hyacinths (*Hyacinthus*) and anemones (*Anemone*). The potted tulips (*Tulipa*) have started to come up and promise to add yet more color.



An anemone



One simply must see the Keizerskroon tulips
(*Tulipa keizerskroon*) when they bloom.

We had several visits from Foodways this week. The Garden was pleased to share parsley (*Petroselinum*), lettuces (*Lactuca*), radishes (*Raphanus*), sweet potatoes (*Ipomoea*), and sorrel (*Rumex*). We heard intelligence the last was part of a rabbit curry!



Lettuces, parsley, and radishes

Thanks to the good services of the Landscape tree team, the Garden is now in possession of sycamore (*Platanus*) branches, which will be used for fences, hurdles, and trellises. Two such trellises were put into our first hotbed of the season, where a mixture of flowers, herbs, and vegetables have been sown.



Sycamore tree being pollarded



Sycamore branch trellis in the hotbed

And finally: it was the second MANURE DAY! Another truck load of the Garden's critical ingredient was collected and moved to the compost yard. This pile is destined for the second hotbed within a few weeks.



Our efforts were closely supervised.



Do all gardeners feel joy at sharing photos of manure? I sure do.



Feel free to ask, "How hot is the pile?" We will be happy to share!

The Colonial Garden will be open on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, weather permitting.

Cooper – The Cooper Shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Engraver – The Engraving Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Foodways – The Foodways Staff will be at the Palace Kitchen Sunday through Wednesday, and Saturday.

Foundry – We are finishing *Drummers Call* badges; making patterns for the Silversmiths; completing some drafting tools for the Brickyard; and lastly, making some surprises for a couple of people.



The Foundry will be open Sunday, Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Gunsmith – The Gunsmith Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

Joinery – The Joinery will be open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Milliner and Mantua-maker – The Milliner will be open Sunday, Wednesday, and Saturday. On Monday, March 7th, at 4:00pm in the Hennage Auditorium, the Milliners will present “Re-animating 18th-century Fashion.” Through study and making, we bring 18th-century pictures to three-dimensional reality, give replicas of extant garments movement and sound, and realize clothing from 18th-century descriptions. This illustrated talk (fashion show) explores how we recapture 18th-century life and work with clothing.

Music – Please join us in welcoming the newest member of The Governor’s Musick, Harpsichordist Kyle Collins. Kyle absolutely blew us away with his audition in January, and we are fortunate to have him with us. He’s joining us for our *Women in Early Music* Concert Series in the Apollo Room of the Raleigh Tavern on Wednesdays at 1:00pm and 3:00pm, starting March 16th.

There are many stories showing the varied ways women in 17th- and 18th-century Europe came to play their instruments and ply their craft on the road less traveled. Some were born into musical families. Some attended Italian “Ospedales,” which were sort of a cross between orphanages and boarding schools, where they studied music with the likes of Antonio Vivaldi. Others were women of means with varied talents and interests, of which music was just one avenue of expression. Music was an activity of great emphasis in sacred institutions, such as convents. Some knew members of royalty and were employed by them. These women performed, composed, and even published music. They published tutorials on playing their instruments. They performed in public as young prodigies and in private for more solemn introspection. Though operating in a male-dominated field, they strove to make themselves known and proved themselves worthy equals to their male counterparts. Come join us for our *Women in Early Music* Concert Series if you can!

Rehearsals continue for our upcoming first Palace Spring Series. We’ll have woods and flowers, shepherds and birds, fetes, and dancing, and, of course, love. The program will coordinate with the *CW Lights*

program, so on Tuesdays and Saturdays, Guests can immerse themselves in the bucolic sounds of Spring before strolling in the Palace Gardens on a cool April evening.

We are setting repertory for our second Palace Spring Series, and for our upcoming Raleigh mini concerts (on the heels of the *Women in Early Music* series), so most of our research is focused on the composers, musical genres, and settings of the themes of our concerts.

Music, for a while
Shall all your cares beguile—

Printer and Bookbinder:

Printing Office – The press is going with tavern bonds this week. We had this put into production as an exercise for a visiting letter-press student. After many months missing, the “please-touch-it ink ball” has reappeared. Things are looking up indeed.



The Printing Office will be open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Bindery – The Bookbindery will be open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Public Leather Works – The Public Leather Works will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Shoemaker – The Shoemakers will be at the Armoury Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Silversmith – The Silversmiths are continuing to work on their plethora of projects. Bobbie has finished the final touches on the silver ladle, and it is ready to go out to its new owner. Megan has filed and engraved a large amount of trade silver, and Preston has polished quite a number of silver items and is busy working on attaching jump rings and pins to the jewelry pieces in need of them. Megan has also been filing her copper ingot to get it ready for forging into sheet. Silversmiths practice in copper, so she will be learning some forging techniques and pointers from the Blacksmiths over the next few days, using the copper ingot. Later, she will apply those lessons to the more expensive silver. George continues work on rings, spoons, and seamed cups. In addition to working on the teapot and meat skewers, Chris has been conducting research on enslaved silversmiths and recently discovered records of a man named Frank, an eighteenth-century silversmith

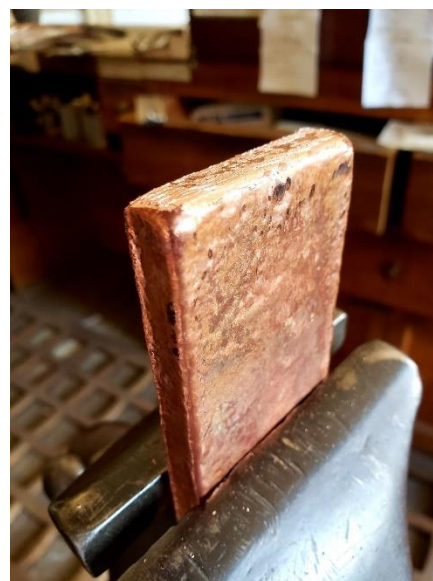
enslaved in Richmond, Virginia. We hope to learn more about Frank through further research and are continuing to look for other silversmiths enslaved in the area, as well.



Bobbie's finished ladle



Trade silver getting pins and jump rings attached



Copper ingot in an early stage of filing

The Silversmith Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

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

Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing – All of a sudden, there has been a bustle of activity in our Shop. Two new projects, one for each loom! On our countermarch loom, we have an elastic cord. This project is made entirely out of linen, and its unique weave structure means that once it comes off the loom, it will collapse, giving it a distinct corded structure to the surface. The elastic element will also come from the collapsed weave structure, as the puckered ridges, or cords, have the ability to stretch back out. Our counterbalance loom has a very different project on it entirely. A simple woolen twill makes up the backing of

the first bed rug our Shop has worked on in several years. We will be producing a run of bed rug samplers, each 36 inches by 45 inches. What makes this so special is the 45 hand tied knots that produce the bed rug's characteristic shaggy pile. In total, each sample requires over 5000 individual knots to be tied onto the warp yarns. We will be working on this one for a while, so come stop by and see! Who knows, maybe we will press you into service tying knots...



The Weaving Shop will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Wheelwright – It appears the Spring season has finally sprung, and the Wheelwrights couldn't be happier with the pleasant weather. Apprentice Joel is finishing up his wheelbarrow repair for the Gardeners. Following some paint making, and painting of the reconstructed barrow, he will be jumping back to prepping out the last of the material for his first pair of wheels. Apprentice Murphy will also be taking on his first vehicle assignment in the coming weeks: a wheelbarrow for the Brickmakers, upon completion of their mallets. Master Paul has been chopping out the fellies for his cannon wheels, as well as finishing a replacement wheelbarrow wedge for the Brickmakers. As part of their Research Day, the Wheelwrights prepared fresh tires for the Randolph Carriage wheels behind the scenes. Here's hoping that next week's weather will be as accommodating as this week for the tiring and the painting!

The Wheelwright Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Wigmaker – This week, we continue to work on Robert's wig. The rows have been woven and stitched on, up to the temples. Next, Edith will determine the lengths needed for the shorter rows for the crown (top) and peak (forehead) of the wig, and Benton will work with her to get those rows woven. Debbie should have the last two rows for the outside edge of the wig, to cover up the binding, done this week, as well. Requests have come in for Evening Programs, so we will work on those over the next week, as well. Edith will be dressing many heads of hair on Mondays for the Milliners' Women's History Month's program at the Hennage. Debbie has been reading *Marie Antoinette's Head* by Will Bashor to get a better grasp on the hairstyles made popular by the Queen and her hairdresser Léonard Autié.



Wig in progress for Robert Weathers

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

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

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