

# THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

## January 28, 2022

*With this issue of the Adviser, the Department of Historic Trades & Skills bids Farewell to our Master Carpenter, Garland Wood. He is beginning a well-earned Retirement after working at CW for forty years! We will all miss him and wish him the very best! Here is his special "last submission."*

After 40 years of work in the Carpenter's trade, and helping to build almost 50 buildings, I am retiring from the building business. I leave the Carpenter's Yard in good hands and wish the crew all the best as they finish up the Innermost House frame and move on to the construction of the new Brickyard and other exciting projects on the horizon. It will be a fun and busy year for the crew, and I will always be ready to cheer you on from the sidelines, and if you need me to pull a rope to help raise a new building, I will be there in a heartbeat. I will miss working with all my CW colleagues, especially my fellow Trades folk, but our work is the work of many generations, and it is time for the next generation at CW to lead the work.

As Roy Underhill likes to say, "May the Grain be with you!"

My final post for the *Mechanick's Adviser*.

All the best, Garland Wood.



**Apothecary** – The Apothecary Shop will be open Tuesday through Saturday.

**Armoury:**

***Blacksmith*** – This week, the Shop has been abuzz with different work. Ken has worked away at chisels and hasps, and with Richard Sullivan's engraving as a final touch, finished a belt axe with a hammer poll for Garland Wood's retirement gift. May he chop and hammer to his heart's content! Elsewhere in the Shop, Aislinn has been finishing pricking punches for leather and a ladle and has also joined Ken in forging the hasps. Broadus and Alex continue their hellacious heap of hinges and have also been finishing thumb latches and flesh forks, respectively. Owen, meanwhile, continues to sharpen and refine his rakes. With snow on the way, it's worthwhile to say: all's well that falls well at the foot of the anvil.

**The Blacksmith Shop will be open Daily.**

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

**Anthony Hay Shop:**

***Cabinetmaker*** – The Cabinetmakers just wrapped up another edition of the *Working Wood in the 18th Century* Conference. John and Jeremy performed brilliantly in a pair of presentations that contrasted the work from the Williamsburg shops run by Peter Scott and Anthony Hay. In particular, they demonstrated the approaches each shop took in the creation of cabriole legs and desks and bookcases. Bill offered up two presentations on carving drawn from ceremonial chairs made or used in Williamsburg and a pair of videos on this city's enslaved cabinetmakers. Also from the Hay Shop, Master Harpsichord Maker Ed Wright delivered a presentation on the Revolutionary War service of Edmund Dickinson (the original shop's last master).

As always, the Conference was a massive undertaking that owes its success to the hard work of so many people from throughout the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. We'd like to give credit and express our sincerest gratitude to all involved in helping us make this year's Conference a meaningful experience for our attendees. To all listed below: Thank You!

**Presenters (Live and Pre-Recorded) –**

Cabinetmakers: John Peeler, Jeremy Tritchler, Bill Pavlak

Harpsichord Makers: Edward Wright

Joiners: Brian Weldy, Peter Hudson, Scott Krogh, Amanda Doggett

Carpenters: Garland Wood, Ayinde Martin, Harold Caldwell, Matt Sanbury

Masonry Trades: Josh Graml

Cooper: Jon Hallman

Historical Interpretation: Michael Romero

Historian: Kelly Brennan

Museums, Preservation, and Historic Resources: Tara Chicirda, Chris Swan

**Technical Support** – Mary Cottrill, Cari Rillo, Layne Chappell, Justin Chapman, Stacy Hernandez

**Conference Management** – Whitney Thornberry, Season Gallagher, Debbie Walden, Tom Savage

**Planning Committee** – Bill Pavlak, Ted Boscana, Tara Chicirda, Chris Swan, Whitney Thornberry, Brian Weldy, Garland Wood

**Additional Support –**

Museums, Preservation, and Historic Resources: Erik Goldstein, Albert Skutans, Leroy Graves, Jan Gilliam, Brandon Strange, Amanda Keller, Scott Merrifield, Matt Webster, Dani Jarwoski, Jenn Wilkoski

Historic Trades and Skills: Ted Boscana, Ken Schwarz, Shari Monaco, Steve Roberts, Chris Viewig, Melanie Belongia, Sara Morrow  
Rockefeller Library: Carl Childs, Marianne Martin  
The Art Museum Security Personnel and Custodial Staff



**The Cabinetmaker and Harpsichord-maker Shop will be open Sunday through Thursday. On Wednesday, February 2nd, at 4:00pm in the Hennage Auditorium, the Cabinetmakers will present “Tools Tell Stories: The Planes of Cesar Chelor.” Join the Cabinetmakers as they construct a raised panel door using planes**

reproduced from originals by free Black plane-maker Cesar Chelor. His surviving tools offer tangible insight into his life and work and the work of his customers like cabinetmakers and joiners.

***Brickmaker*** – This week was spent partially in the cold grasp of the old Yard with a few visits to a much more pleasant Carpenters Yard. Our return to the Carpenters Yard, at their request, was very much anticipated by the crew as we presently have very limited space to palletize more bricks. Our task is nearly at a triumphant finish despite the hiccups we've encountered along the way, such as the need for pallets and storage space. Soon, we will be able to gaze upon our new home as proudly as Journeyman Kenneth is known to. Otherwise, this week, Kenneth briefly captivated Carpenter Bobby Clay with a deftly executed minuet, which was a welcome distraction as we all come to terms with the retirement of Master Garland Wood this week.



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

***Colonial Garden*** – The story this week, again, is snow. Cold temperatures and very icy paths deterred the Gardeners from their duties. The duty not shirked is hotbed season. Our first hotbed is about to commence with the gathering of the manure. The Gardeners were up to the task and gathered enough to more than fill the truck. Thank you, Coach and Livestock, for the manure and access to your pastures.

So far, our plants have weathered the winter temperatures, but this weekend may bring extreme temperatures. We hope for snow, which will insulate the ground and plants, ensuring the survival of the not-so-winter-hardy plants. Single digit temperatures mean trouble for some of our plants, but we hope for the best. It's the end of January, spring will be on its way soon!

Again, we say "see you later" to Garland Wood after 40 years with the Foundation. We shall miss you.



Flowerpots in the snow



Lettuce under glass



Teal and Marc with today's haul of manure

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, and Saturday.

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

Foundry – The Foundry will be open Sunday, Monday, 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.

Printer and Bookbinder:

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

Bindery – Happy Winter to you from all of us at the Bookbindery!

Paste Books: Part 1

This week, your friendly neighborhood Bookbinders found themselves remarkably busy with a slew of new book orders. We quickly made an executive decision to make blank paste books to tide people over until the new blank leather-bound books can be constructed.

## Origins of Paste Paper

Hernhut Paper, or “Paste Paper”, comes to us from a small Protestant Moravian settlement in Hernhut, Germany, established in 1722. The Moravians had settled there, having fled severe religious persecution in what is now the Czech Republic. Eventually, a second Moravian Settlement was established in Fulneck, England, in 1743. In 1766, the unmarried female residents of Hernhut began the manufacture of paste paper in earnest. The paper was shipped to England, and thence began to make its appearance in books around England, and eventually, the world. The earliest example of Hernhut paper dates to approximately 1727.

## Creating the Paste

The colorful paste can be created at home by quite simply mixing 6 parts water to 1 part flour, adding food coloring, and bringing the mixture to a boil, whisking the entire time. Once it boils for 30 seconds, remove from the heat and cool. The mixture can then be applied to a piece of paper with a paintbrush and decorated by dragging a comb through the paint to make the design pictured. It is then dried on a rack and put under weight to smooth the wrinkles until it is ready for use.

Over the years, Journeyman-Supervisor Printer Peter has experimented with using cream of tartar, alum, distilled water, and unbleached, organic flour to get results truer to what the colors and consistency would have been in the 18th century.

The newest batch of paper, which adorns the paste books, was mostly made by Peter and two Interns who worked with us from the NIAHD Program through William and Mary, Ellie and Mary Hannah. Many thanks to all three of them for all their hard work.



Stay tuned for Part 2 next week, when we explain how to produce a simple 18th-century inspired paste book. Until Next Time!

**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 are open on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Armoury.

*Silversmith* – Work continues on many projects at the Silversmith Shop, such as Chris’s teapot, Preston’s small bowls, George’s spoons, and Megan’s ingot. Bobbie has nearly finished her miniature punch bowl and just needs to give it a final polish. Miniatures, like the punch bowl, were very popular amongst the gentry, both for children’s toys and for cabinets of curiosity. Preston’s bowls are coming along nicely and are in the process of being chased with detail work. George has been teaching Megan how to polish teaspoons and has a whole fleet of them ready for her to finish. He has also been working on many seamed cups, a process that requires a blank cut from a sheet of silver that is then brought together and soldered rather than a flat disc raised into a hollow form. Seamed forms became more common towards the end of the 18th century, as silver sheet became more widely available. Chris is working on making the hinge for the teapot, a meticulous process that requires much measuring and sanding to get a snug fit. Work continues on the ebony handle, as well.



Seamed cups in various stages of progress





**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** – Winter may still be cold and biting, but all eyes are on the coming spring and the Workshops we will be hosting. On our Research Days, we have been testing and tweaking the programs we have not done before and rehearsing the ones that have been on hiatus since the start of the pandemic. There is a mountain of prep work to be done, but we will be ready soon.

Otherwise, we have already placed orders for yarn for the coming year. We will need more as we go, but tens of thousands of yards of yarn ought to cover our first couple of projects. Practice and prepare are the watchwords of the season, but if you stop by, we will be happy to see you and talk.

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

**Wheelwright** – Repairs and planing at the Wheelwrights this week. His mallet handle planed and installed, Apprentice Murphy has completed his mallet! He is currently planing up spoke material for a future project. In the coming weeks, Murphy will be replacing the flooring of the red farm wagon parked beside the Shop. Apprentice Joel still has to make adjustments to the joinery of his wheelbarrow leg. Master Wheelwright Paul continues to plane the spokes for his cannon wheels. Combined with Murphy's shavings, this will be excellent fuel for any future tire installations. The Wheelwrights took a field trip as part of their Research Day this week, pinpointing various locations of 18th-century vehicle shops. This journey took them all across the Historic Area, from Nassau Street to the Capital. All in all, a very productive and interesting week for the Deane Shop.

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

**Wigmaker** – This week, we're happy to announce that Benton has completed the first level of his apprenticeship! In the few months he's been with us, he has completed four hairpieces, collaborated with Debbie on Dave Catanese's wig, tackled the never-ending cycle of maintenance, and has begun to style wigs

for both display and use amongst our colleagues. He will now move on to more complicated styling and construction techniques. Edith continues to master the hand knotted base for a new wig for Robert Weathers and is finding that making a perfect square may be harder than it sounds. Debbie continues to work on alterations to a wig for Mike McCarty.

We would all like to extend our heartfelt Congratulations to Garland in his retirement!!

**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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**Contributors:** Armoury – Alex Hinman (Blacksmith), Anthony Hay Shop – Bill Pavlak (Cabinetmaker), Brickmaker – Madeleine Bolton, Carpenter – Garland Wood, Colonial Garden – Eve Otmar, Printer and Bookbinder – Barbara Swanson (Bindery), Silversmith – Megan Cantwell, Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing – Joe Wixted, Wheelwright – Joel Morris, Wigmaker – Debbie Turpin