



**THE
MECHANICK'S
ADVISOR**

2/1/24

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Apothecary

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

We've been excited to welcome back Olivia, our NAIAD intern, for her second semester at the shop. Sharon continues with the account books and found an exciting 1794 entry for a surgery performed on an individual's "thorax." (We wish Galt had been more specific!) Stephannie is reading Hippocrates. Margaret continues to work through material on distillation.

- Margaret Perry



Welcome back, Olivia!

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Blacksmith

Daily

The slow season this time of year is a good time for us Blacksmith's to catch up on our less exciting bench work, filing, fitting, and finishing, already forged things has been much of the shop's focus as of late. Ken has been working on a pair of tinsnips, as well as a yoke for a swivel gun. Mark a side axe, and button hooks. Aislinn a few brick hammers, and fire tongs. Alex turning to a bit of woodwork to fit the oak stock for his lock. Broadus nearly finished with his lock, soon to also be chopping out a stock.

- Broadus Thompson



Ken with the Tinsnips

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Carpenter

Sunday through Thursday

These last couple weeks we worked on a few projects. Shingles for the Bray and First Baptist is of course our main project right now, but we also were involved in the woodworking symposium for a session as well as site cleaning during our yards maintenance closure. It's amazing how many cut offs and materials pile up when we are working on a frame. This closure has given us the ability to clean our yard and organize the remaining materials.



*A box of shingles for
the Bray School and
First Baptist Church.*



*A newly stacked and
stickered pile of framing.*

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Gardeners

Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

This time of year, a gardeners thoughts turn to fruit trees and grafting. In 1728, Batty Langley publishes *New Principles of Gardening*.

In the chapter about apples, "Where any Fruit-Tree decays having grown long in that Place, plant another of a different Species in its Place, and not one of the fame; for the old Tree having exhausted those Juices appropriate to its own Kind, will starve your new-planted Tree, when at the fame Time another of a different kind will thrive, and prosper very well." In 1728, they knew these things by observation and experience. Today, thanks to science, we have a name for this apple tree malady, and it is known as "replant disease".

Modern garden practices utilize rootstock that is specially bred to be resistant to such diseases. Without this rootstock, newly replanted fruit trees would perish after a few years. If replacing a dead fruit tree, remember Mr. Langley, and make sure you have the correct rootstock for your graft or plant the tree in another location in fresh soil.

- Eve otmar



Green Gage Plum in bloom.



*Indian, Blood Peach in bloom.
Spring is coming!*

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Harpsichord Maker

Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday

This past weekend Melanie and Ed joined our cabinetmaking colleagues and fellow tradesmen and guest speakers for the 26th Annual Working Wood conference. It was a heady 3 1/2 day event, woodworking, drawing, historical books (some of them literally in front of us), designs, and tools. We harpsichord makers gave a demonstration on historically methods of using veneers for decorating our instruments, as well as a report on two historical technical writings about the subject. Attendees viewed our current project, the William Harris reproduction. Additionally, Melanie received her journeyman papers marking her new status both in the shop, Colonial Williamsburg, and the trade. Thanks for the camaraderie, everyone and for letting us sit in and show what we do.

- Ed Wright



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Joiner

Sunday through Thursday

The Working Wood in the 18th Century Conference has now come and gone! January 25-28 was a flurry of activity, starting on Thursday with an architectural tour of the Palace with Journeyman Peter, and a session in Special Collections with Apprentice Laura and Librarians Doug Mayo and Marianne Martin. During the main sessions of the symposium, Master Brian and Journeyman Peter presented twice on stage, sharing a joiner's perspective on doors, blanket chests, architectural and furniture design, and construction methods. We extend our thanks to the hard work of fellow CW tradespeople, our guest speakers, the Art Museum staff, our conference and events staff, the staff of the Rockefeller Library, and of course, all of the attendees.

- Laura Hollowood



Photos of Peter and Brian presenting at conference, including an examination of an antique blanket chest and assembling parts of their reproduction of said chest.

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Leather Breeches Maker

Daily

Greetings!

Our shop celebrated its first birthday on January 15th! We are very proud of all the work we have done in the past year and look forward to the work to come. Thank you to all of our colleagues who came and celebrated this special day with us! Work in the shop is also progressing nicely. Apprentice Emma is about 40% through her 1790's pair of breeches and Apprentice Wilson is nearing the end of his sheepskin breeches. We are also focusing on tool maintenance and training in this part of the year.

- Sarah Cross



Parts prepped by Apprentice Emma

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Tailor

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

Mr. Logue, Apprentice, is currently working on a coat for Mr. Zelesnikar, Master Wheelwright. The fabric chosen is a durable corduroy, velvet cape, and lined in unbleached linen. The coat construction and material choice is based on an original coat in Herefordshire, England that Mr. Hutter, Master, and Mr. McCarty, Journeyman, examined on a visit there in 2015.

- Michael McCarty



18th century sleeves are patterned to fit the natural shape of the arm; with the forearm being around a thirty degree off from the upper arm.

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Weaver, Spinner, And Dyer

Sunday through Wednesday, Saturday

A new project is up and running on our loom! Many hours of warping, threading, and sleying have come to fruition now that our shuttle can start traveling back and forth. A plain weave linen, bleached white, may not be the most interesting textile we have ever made, but it may just be the most common and most important fabric to the people of Williamsburg in 1776.



*Plain weave linen
on the loom.*

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Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Bookbinder**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Cabinetmaker**

- *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*

- **Cooper**

- *Tuesday through Saturday*

- **Farmer**

- *Closed for the Season*

- **Fife and Drum**

- **Founder**

- *Tuesday through Saturday*

- **Historic Masonry**

- *Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday*

- **Milliner and Mantua-Maker**

- *Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday*

- **Musket Ranger**

- *Ticket Event*

- **Silversmith**

- *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Shoemaker**

- *Daily*

- **Tin Plate Worker**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Wheelwright**

- *Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday*

- **Wigmaker**

- *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday*

Editor.

Matthew Siepinski