



THE MECHANICK'S ADVISOR

10/27/2023

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Apothecary

The Apothecary is open Sunday through Thursday

Stephannie continues compounding with a sweet tincture of rhubarb (a nice-sounding laxative). Sharon has started transcribing Galt-Barraud Ledger B, which began in 1791, and Margaret is working on the midwifery section of the level 3 apprenticeship curriculum. We're also happy to have our NIAHD intern Olivia in costume interpreting!

- Margaret Perry



Olivia, our Fall 2023 NIAHD intern, stands behind the apothecary shop counter in 18th-century clothing.

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Blacksmith

The Blacksmith is open every day

In the Blacksmith shop this week Ken has been working on hardware for a bar, as well as hardware for a wall gun. The Journeymen work on sine bracket parts, Mark also working on a soldering iron for the tinsmiths. Broadus is putting together a broiler for Mount Vernon. And Alex made lantern brackets.



Josh adjusting a pair of tongs this morning.

- Joshua Rachita

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Carpenter

Open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

This week we've started back up on the brick yard drying house. We're focusing right now on adding some studs and sistered studs to the end walls and gables. We have a few obstacles to work around including hiding the electrical panel box in a way that it can still be serviced if it needs to be. A shuttered window and door will also be added in coming weeks. Thanks to the blacksmiths, we will have all the needed hardware.

- Matthew Sanbury



The re dimensioned studs on the horses are for the gable door posts to be sistered and the window trim and door trim is rough cut to width for the brick yard drying house.

New brace studs, sistered studs, and windowsill for brick yard drying house.

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Engravers

The Engravers are open Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday through Saturday

This week, the apprentices William and Emma took advantage of the shop's closure for maintenance to take a trip to the VMFA, along with our fellow apprentices Leanne and Drew from the Foundry. There, we met with the Objects conservation staff and had a chance to look closely at some of their silver collection, including a donated collection of more than 200 pieces of silverware made by Hester Bateman of London in the 18th century. William also had a chance to look at the silver service of Lord Admiral George Anson, the captain of the English ship depicted in his latest copperplate engraving, as well as a pair of spice casters produced by an early 18th-century William Fleming. The VMFA staff were incredibly kind and generous, and we hope to be able to continue fostering relationships such as these in the future. We highly encourage our colleagues in other trades to similarly reach out to other institutions as you are able and help foster important connections such as these. - William Fleming



A pair of silver casters marked by 18th-century silversmith William Fleming.



A silver sauceboat stand bearing the arms of Lord Admiral George Anson.

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Gardener

The Gardeners are open every day.

Preparations for colder weather continue in the Historic Garden. In the last two weeks we have planted lettuce, harvested bushel basket gourds, dug a portion of our sweet potatoes, and sowed seeds for clover and corn poppies. We also tried our hands at the masonry arts and stacked up bricks for our fire pit. While recreational fire pits are fashionable in modern gardens, a fire pit would not be the focal point of a formal garden in the 18th century. Its central location at our site today will allow us to stay warm while we work and interpret to guests through the winter.

- Teal Brooks



Brick fire pit in the Historic Garden



Broccoli and other cool-season vegetables



A selection of gourds and an edible cushaw squash

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Gunsmith

The Gunsmith is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

The Gunsmiths took the opportunity this last Tuesday to visit the Conservation department to view a nice American long rifle from 1774. The gunsmith who built it isn't entirely clear due to the fact the name engraved on the top barrel flat is heavily worn and not legible.

Darrin and brad continue to ream the pistol barrels and Richard is making the silver mounts for a customer's pistol.

- Darrin McDonal



The components for the next silver mounted pistol.

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Harpsichord Maker

The Harpsichord Maker is open Sunday, Monday, and Thursday through Saturday

We are deep into the details on the new spinet... Melanie gluing ribs to the soundboard with sticks to the ceiling (a very common method)... then she can begin shaping them to give the soundboard its proper flexibility... Ed cleaning up the key front decorations and bringing everything into preliminary fitting into the instrument... It will be like this for a while. Come visit and see how it is coming together.

- Edward Wright



Fitting up the Action.



Go-bars Clamping Ribs to Soundboard.



Key Fronts.

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Joiner

The Joiner is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

For those of you curious about our upcoming projects, we'd like to share a look into some of the original pieces we have been studying for reproduction. For the Bray School, we expect to make a mixture of chairs, tables, chests, and benches. Apprentice Laura will be tackling a walnut table, based on Obj 1933-36, which has turned legs and stretchers and will be a great introduction to turning.



Black walnut table, Obj 1933-36 in the CWF Collections

Also quickly approaching is the upcoming Working Wood in the 18th Century conference. For this symposium, Journeyman Peter and Master Brian will be presenting on an Eastern Shore blanket chest, Obj 1930-108, which features some eye-catching panels.



Eastern shore yellow pine blanket chest, Obj 1930-108 in the CWF Collections

- Laura Hollowood

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Palace Kitchen

The Palace Kitchen is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday

It was a busy couple of weeks over at the Palace Kitchen! We saw a lot of familiar faces, as a bunch of our regular guests in the kitchen all seemed to be in town at the same time. This past Friday, the team spent the day with our friends from productions, as we worked on a video/photo shoot with accompanying interviews on our trade and food's impact on the 18th century and today. It was so much fun working with everyone and cooking dishes for the shoot. We roasted stuffed pork, make hominy over in the scullery, and roasted coffee. We are excited to see the final product of everyone's collective work!

- Charlotte Shoaf



A behind-the-scenes shot of Dom being interviewed in the Scullery.

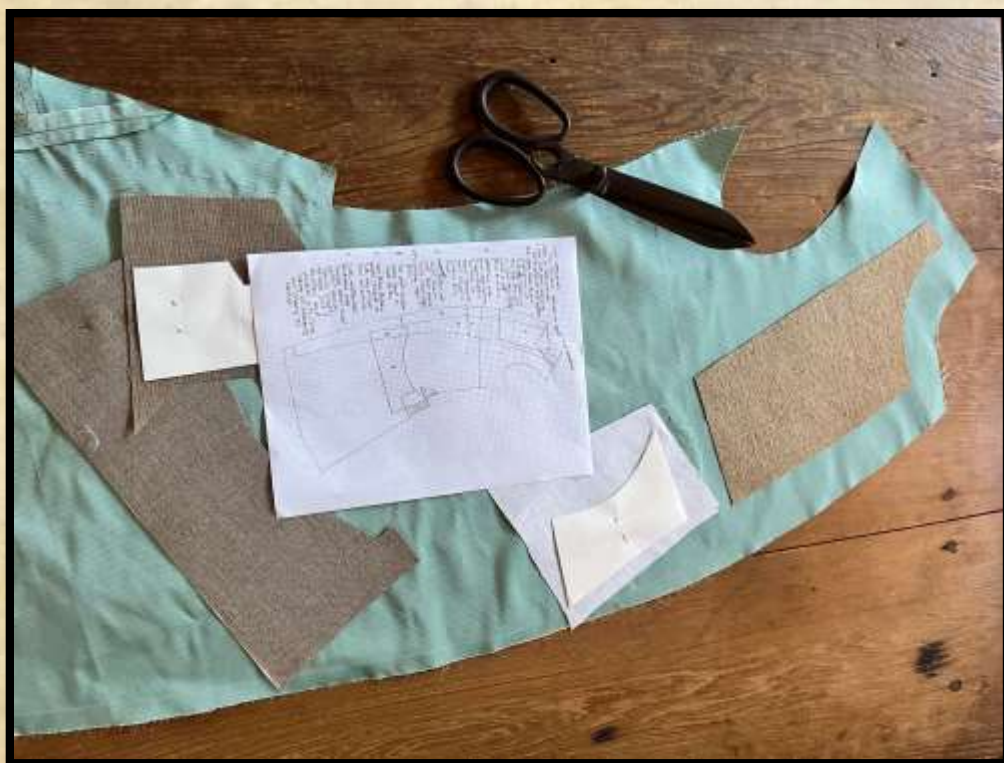
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Tailor

The Tailor is open Sunday through Thursday

Mr. McCarty, Journeyman, is making up a single coat front at the request of the DAR museum in DC. It will be used to show the interior work inside of a coat that is not seen once the lining is put in. In this case linen, buckram (stiffened linen), and wool make up the interlining of this silk coat. Together they help both create and reinforce the structure of the coat's front.

- Michael McCarty



The main fabric of the coat is a lovely figured silk.

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Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers

The Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers are open Sunday through Wednesday and Saturday

Recently two new interns have begun at the Weaver's shop! Lydia has been a revolutionary war reenactor for many years and with a degree in textile design and a concentration in woven structures for jacquard looms Lydia has been an excellent fit in the shop. Kaya is NIAD student studying history at the College of William and Mary. This week both ladies have learned to card and spin wool and have tried their hands at weaving!

- Pamela Russo



Kaya on the left and Lydia on the right.

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Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Bookbinder**

- *Tuesday through Saturday*

- **Cabinet Maker**

- *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*

- **Cooper**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Famer**

- *Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday*

- **Fife and Drum**

- **Founder**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Historic Masonry**

- *Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday*

- **Milliner and Mantua-Maker**

- *Tuesday through Saturday*

- **Musket Range**

- *Ticket Event*

- **Shoemaker**

- *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Sunday*

- **Silversmith**

- *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Tin Plate Worker**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Wigmaker**

- *Sunday through Thursday*

- **Wheelwright**

- *Sunday through Friday*

Editor.

Matthew Siepinski