

# THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

## for April 10 - 16

**Apothecary** – Progress is being made on their project with pharmacy students. A grad student with some background in the history of medicine has been hired for their summer intern. Sharon is working on 18th-century dental techniques.

**Artificer** – In addition to the usual flurry of odd jobs like knife sheaths for the Candlemakers and hemming towels for the Weavers, the shop always has more involved longer-range projects underway. Presently, they are working on a 1756 French dragoon saddle and a pair of course sheepskin breeches. Plans are underway for sorting and packing the shop in preparation for the move to their Summer home at the Armory site .

**Basketmaker** – They are still working on large baskets for in-house and special orders. They are getting pretty short on material and hope to hear from the supplier soon. They have also begun working on the incubator baskets for Coach & Livestock-- a willow project.

**Bindery** – They are working on blank ledgers.

**Cabinetmaker** – They continue to work on several pieces: a coopered mahogany wine cooler, an easy chair (wing chair frame), and a pair of fluted tri-pod music stands. The harpsichord makers are processing mechanical parts for two future spinets.

**Candlemaker** – They have begun selling candles at Prentis Store. They are developing skill in the processes and have attracted some Media attention. The daily routine is so smooth one would think they were all old hands at the trade. A new daily program, “The Candlemaker’s Apprentice,” begins on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. It is a ticketed, interactive program where guests will be able to dip a candle that they will be able to keep. It begins at 10:00, 10:30, and 11:00, and then 2:30, 3:00, and 3:30. Two tickets will be sold for each time.

**Cooper** – They continue to work on tubs for Coach and Livestock and buckets for the Printing Office.

**Fifes and Drums** – The Fife and Drum Senior Corps is currently working on new music for their participation in the Virginia International Tattoo held in Norfolk this month.

**Foodways** – A special tour will occur on 18<sup>th</sup>: “A Cook’s Walking Tour.” Guests visiting our historic sites see lovely, pristine homes in fair order. But, did you ever wonder about the messy parts of life? Kim Costa will lead a tour to explore the often private world of food preparation in an 18th-century city. Guests will visit a variety of original out- buildings and sites, including smoke houses, dairies, kitchens, and bake ovens. Guests will learn what it was like to live and work as a cook and prepare food across the hierarchy of society.

The next Brewing Program will be on Wednesday, April 27th.

**Gunsmith** – The lock for the rifle is being inlet into the stock, and Eric has turned three handles for froes for the Blacksmith.

**Historic Garden** – It was a chilly week at the Garden, and they have been a little worried about the smaller transplants. With the freeze Tuesday night, they covered all the small lettuce with the bell jars and kept the hotbeds closed to protect the summer plants that have been started there. The cabbages were left out, and there was only one fatality with the red Department of Historic Trades and Skills



cabbage. Despite the cold and the preparations, they have been continuing on with the spring plantings. Thursday was great: drippy and overcast weather for transplanting leeks, herbs, and celery. They planted leeks along with rosemary, sage, and some violas on the corners next to the cistern and planted the celery and chard where the rapeseed was close to the fence. It is hoped that the wind doesn't do too much harm to the new transplants. Today (Friday), the new Junior Interpreters start. They are willing and eager to learn and work and such a joy for the Gardeners to have with them. The staff looks forward to working with them for the rest of the Summer.

**Joinery** – The apprentices will continue work on the crates for the ox cart. Mr. Boscana is finishing the bench for the Tin Shop.

**Military Programs** – They continue to conduct musket demonstrations, plan activities for the camp, and further develop future programming.

**Millinery** – The shop will be closed April 11 – 23 for maintenance. Come see them when they re-open!

**Musket Range** – The Range has been very busy and is enjoying their third week in operation.

**Printer** – The Pressmen will be printing the first form of Mr. Jefferson's "A Summary View of the Rights of British America." The printing of the Declaration will be discontinued until the Summer.

**Silversmith** – They are raising a couple of Washington Camp cups, working on a chamber stick, a pair of fish trowels, a small sauce boat, meat skewers, various sorts of spoons (including mote spoons), salt shovels, a Gurney Bowl, some fluted bowls, a pair of patty pans, trade silver jewelry, rings, and letter charms, and a 12-inch Montieth. Please note that at any given time, not all of these items will be being worked on, but all will be available to be seen and discussed with anyone who is interested.

**Tailor** – The Millinery and Tailor Shop will be closed April 11 - 22 for maintenance.

**Weavers** – The Weavers are up and running!! With the bus stop #1 being changed to the Market/Magazine site, they have had oodles of folks coming into the shop. There has been lots of great feedback on the space. They are working on a Linsey Woolsey and Huck on the two looms. The men in the Masonry Trades will be helping them establish a new dye spot. Hopefully, the Weavers will be back in the dye pots soon.







**Wheelwright** – They continue working on an ox wagon for children’s rides.

**Wigmaker** – They continue the daily maintenance of wigs and hairpieces for all of the actors, dancers, and musicians. Debbie is still working on weaving and attaching the wefts of hair to her German reproduction Bob wig. Betty and Regina are blending and weaving hair for a new set of ladies curls and a queue for Doug Paulson (Our Auctioneer). They are also finishing up a handmade wig for Richard Schumann, the actor who portrays Patrick Henry, and working on a ladies “formal evening wear” wig and a few other hairpieces for display at the Mary Dickinson Shop.