

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

for the week of November 29 - December 5

Armoury:

Blacksmith – They are making a sign bracket for Pitt Store, tools for the Wheelwright Shop, kitchen equipment for Prentis Store, tires for a hand cart, door and shutter hardware for Prentis, an iron rim lock, a small box iron, and miscellaneous repair work.

Tin Shop – Work continues on soldier's camp cups. They are making a horn-paned tin lanthorn for Fort Ticonderoga, and creating a pattern for a tin watering can.

Artificer's Shop – At present, they are caught up with all outstanding projects. Now would be a good time to let them know of any upcoming needs for your work units, so that they can be budgeted and prioritized. Any images or citations that you are able to provide are most helpful as research time is at a premium for them.

Basketmaker – They are making baskets for Prentis Store for Christmas sales.

Bindery – They continue to work on a custom order (a full-bound ledger), a music book, and books for Prentis Store.

Brickmaker – The Brickyard is now closed for the season. They will let the clamp cool for a week as they collect their wits. They will be back in December unstacking the brick clamp Monday thru Friday when weather allows.

Cabinetmaker – They are in the initial stages of work on two pedestal music stands and a decorated tea caddy. Work continues on the wing chair and spinet.

Carpenters – They are building a shed and making shingles.

Coopers – They are making casks for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and buckets for the Prentis Store.

Foodways – They are preparing for the next “Secrets of the Chocolate Maker” program on Tuesday, Dec 1st, and for the butchering program on Saturday, Dec 12th.

Great Hopes Plantation –

The new daubing in the Slave House using a period recipe is completed.

Farming: This is the best yield of cotton in the six years that they have experimented with different varieties. Last year, they crossed 3 varieties: Mexican, Ballard, and Sea Island, and chose the bolls that opened the earliest. They will continue to do this in the forthcoming years.

They are removing the tobacco from the pile called a “bulk” and sorting through it to ascertain the quality of the leaf.

Domestic Arts: Stef Dunn will be cooking with Chef Anthony Frank at the Taste Studio this Saturday using vegetables grown in their garden delivered by ox cart. They are hauling in compost and manure to replenish the garden soil.

They continue to work with other Trades Department sites (Foodways, Weavers, Millinery, Tailors, Apothecary, and Gardeners) to develop this special hybrid trade involving the complex skills of the average woman in 18th-century Virginia.

Gun Shop/Foundry – The Gun Shop casehardened the rifle lock this week and made springs for the 2 pistol locks. The Foundry delivered about 8-10 pewter taper candle sticks to Prentis Store and cast 30 counterfeit coins, but don't tell anyone.

Joiners – They will continue working on tables, stools, and work stands for the Candlemakers, Weavers, and Tailors in preparation for the shop moves.

Printers – They continue printing The Beggar's Opera theatre bill in red.

Silversmith – They are working on various sorts of spoons (including mote spoons), salt shovels, Gurney Bowls and a fluted bowl, a pair of patty pans, a pair of raised beakers, a small punch cup, trade silver jewelry, rings, and letter charms, a 12-inch Montieth, and ladles. 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.

Tailors – They are patterning and constructing knit fabric breeches and working with visiting fellow Anne Bissonnette on new research regarding Macaroni dress.

Weaver – They are working on a new project for a puppet stage curtain. Linsey Wolsey stripe is shuttling along. They will be dyeing indigo on Saturday the 28th. They are also getting ready to move into their new location.

Wheelwright – They are still working on rebuilding the ox cart and planning a new ox wagon.

Wigmaker – They are constructing a Bob Wig, comprised of human and horse hair, which Debbie saw in Germany, a wiglet for one of the AI's, and a hand-knotted base for a new wig for Richard Schuman (Patrick Henry). They also continue to do daily maintenance on wigs used by CW staff to support various programming (plays, Ghost Tours, Rev City, and commercials).