

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

for April 19 - 23

Apothecary – They are collecting primary source information for Collections for reproducing some compounding equipment. The study of dentistry continues.

Armoury -

Blacksmith - They are working on the iron for the ox wagon that the Wheelwrights are building, fifteen pair of strap hinges for Jefferson's Monticello, tools for the Carpenters and leather workers, and finishing up the iron work for the Windmill. They have made some lug poles for a kitchen fireplace at the Speaker's House in Trapp, PA.

Tin shop - They are working on some lanthorns and tinderboxes.

Brickmaker – Recognizing that this Friday will be a busy day for school tours, the Brickyard will be staffed and open for tours on Friday, April 22 from 9:00-5:00. This will not be advertised, and they will not be treading or making bricks; but the kids can help fill the pit or move firewood or some other interactive activity.

Candlemaker – They are teaching guests how to dip candles in a specially-ticketed, hands-on program. This program is very popular with the guests. Candles are currently made mostly by dipping, with a few moulded candles being cast each day. They are taking their candles to market at Prentis Store, in response to many guest requests there. The dark brown wax is nearly exhausted, so they plan to make yellow to light brown candles soon. They hope to soon take groups on walking tours a few times each week, to explore the sources of candle wax in Williamsburg. This tour will also be specially ticketed. Candlemaking is a lot of fun. Be sure to drop in if you have the chance.

Fifes and Drums - From April 21-24, the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Corps will be participating in the 20th annual Virginia International Tattoo at Norfolk Scope. This show is a key element of the Virginia Arts Festival and has become one of the most popular events of the Festival. The Tattoo itself features over 20 musical and military groups from 8 different Countries, and its cast and crew totals over 1900. The show will play for an estimated audience of 40,000. Our Fifers and Drummers have been working for several months to perfect new musical selections and a marching drill for the performance.

Gunsmith - The apprentice is making ferrules for awl handles for the Shoemaker. Work on the pair of pistols continues, and the rifle that is under construction has the lock inlet, and the trigger plate and trigger will be inlet next.

Historic Garden – Another cold week for the Garden and now a wet one. This week, they are just looking out for the plants and making sure they are “happy”. The staff are trying to keep them warm when it is cold outside and trying to keep them watered when it is not. On a happier note, all of the spring garden is out and coming along nicely, despite the cold. The last to come out were the leeks, and it is hoped that they will fare well. Peas are coming along, and they hope to have some on the Prince Albert hotspurs in the next couple of days. The junior interpreters have been helping out when they can, and Emily and Jen really enjoy that, especially when they help with the weeding! Much weeding is going on in the perennial flower beds. They are expecting a great show from the flowers this summer!

Military Programs - The Fire Engine program began on April 17th. All guests and employees are invited to assist with the operation of the fire engine as well. The staff welcomes its two newest employees: Niall Farley and Emily Yates to be both Military and Fire Engine staff. Several of the staff will accompany the Fifes and Drums Corps as they travel to Norfolk for the Virginia International Tattoo. **Finally, the Firing of the Noon Gun began on Monday, April 18th. Please note: The Noon Gun program occurs at 11:55am. 11:40am is the time the child between the ages of 8 and 13, who is picked at the Visitor's Center, meets the gun Sergeant at the gate of the Magazine. The public wishing to watch should be directed to the depression in the southwest corner of Market Square closest to Francis Street.**

Milliner - The Milliner and Tailor are closed for maintenance this week.

Printers – They are 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.

Shoemaker - Common shoes and a range of pumps are currently under construction. Last week, the Senior Journeyman visited the Alexandria Archeology Museum to help them identify a number of shoe fragments they recovered from an 18th-century privy site. He also spoke to visitors about historic shoemaking and how studying original shoes informs our reproduction work. Some of the finds were applicable to our shoes, and he will return over the summer to continue drawing and recording those pieces.

Silversmith - They are raising a couple of Washington Camp cups, while work continues on a chamber stick, teaspoons, mote spoons, tablespoons, desert spoons, salt shovels, meat skewers, ladles, fish trowels, a small sauce boat, a 12in. Montieth, a gurney bowl, a 3 ¼ in. bowl, some 3 ¼ in fluted bowls, a pair of patty pans, trade silver jewelry, rings, and letter charms. Also, one silversmith is hammering out a billet to raise a vessel, probably a mug. It must be said 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 – The Milliner and Tailor are closed for maintenance this week.

Wheelwright - They are working on the ox wagon and performing some stage wagon repair.

Wigmaker – They continue the daily maintenance of the wigs and hairpieces for all of our 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 (the Auctioneer). They are finishing up a handmade wig for the actor who portrays Patrick Henry. They are also working on a ladies “formal evening wear” wig and a few other hairpieces for display at the Mary Dickinson Shop.