

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

for the week of Sept 6-12

Apothecary – They are finishing translating 57 pages of Latin prescription records from the Williamsburg Public Hospital and are working with the Tailors and Milliners on 17th-century treatments to prevent and remove lice.

Armoury:

Blacksmith – They are working on hand railings for the Market House, hardware for a lathe which is being made in the cabinet shop, a coin press to be used to exhibit early coin production, and an iron rim lock). Miscellaneous work includes small hardware for the Market House and Scale house to include nails, hinges, and slide bolts for the doors, brackets for hanging tin lanterns (which were made by the Tin Shop), shears for the Tin Shop, repairs to agricultural tooling for Great Hopes, and tooling for the Wheelwright Shop.

Tin Shop – They have been repairing watering cans from the Garden site, as well as a coffeepot and some broken stemware for the Breeches making program, some new chocolate pots and coffee pots for the Coffee House, and developing patterns for new projects for the advanced part of our apprentice curriculum. The new apprentice and intern are working on developing skills in fitting and soldering. They are both working on gill cups, patterned after a surviving cup found in the archaeology of the Custis Site here in Williamsburg.

On another note - a gentleman recently donated a significant set of tinsmith tools to the Tin Shop. While these tools are too late in style to use within the public shop, they include several stakes which are too large for us to fabricate within the blacksmith shop. We will be able to put the tooling to good use in a backup space should we need to work on larger objects or should we have the need to work on CW objects like electrified lighting - which we do not feel is appropriate for work in our public programming.

Artificer's Shop – They will be wrapping up the last of the leather breeches and beginning the transition to working in firm leather. The interns will be instructed in the techniques of working in firm leather.

Basketmaker – They are completing the making of an array of baskets for the Market House and making items for sale at Prentis Store.

Bindery – They are making books for Great Hopes: The Complete Housewife and Hannah Glasse's book on cookery, one quarter-bound and one full-bound calf-skin leather ledger books for Prentis Store, and gold work on a bound book.

Cabinetmaker – They will be varnishing a harpsichord stand and completing the refurbishing of a 1994 Hay shop spinet, continue work on two walnut case pieces, and continue the construction of a Hay shop wing chair. Work on a replica 18th- century treadle lathe will also be under way.

Carpenters – They will be building the roofed outdoor market stalls for the Market House as well as putting the finishing touches on the Scale House, such as hanging doors and shutters. Work continues on the Windmill with a crane scheduled for September 8 to lift the Windmill back up onto the kingpost.

Coopers – They are making pieces for use at the Market House, modifying firkins [9-gallon casks] into drums for use by the African American programs at Peyton Randolph House, making kilderkins [16-gallon wine casks] for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and commencing cooperage for Gen. Washington's encampment.

Historic Garden – The summer garden is coming out and the winter garden is going in. The cabbage, cauliflower, and collards are planted, the turnips are seeded and just up. Hope to see the kale above ground next week. The last pumpkins have been harvested, and the patch is being tilled in preparation for sowing with rye grass as a winter cover crop.

Joiners – They are working on tables, stalls, and crates for the Market House.

Printers – They are finishing the second and final form for “A Pretty Story...” and correcting the third of four forms for “The Articles of Confederation” (expecting to have this in production soon).

Shoemaker – They will be working on shoes.

Silversmith – They are working on various sorts of spoons, Gurney Bowls, a large punch bowl and a “skittle ball” teapot, a pair of patty pans, Revere Beakers and raised beakers, a thistle cup, trade silver jewelry, and a 12in. 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.

Tailors – They are finishing a worsted coat, a pair of knit cotton breeches, and beginning mattresses and curtains for Washington’s camp bed.

Wheelwright – They will be working on hand carts for the Market House: framing up a cart body and working on the wheels, and repainting existing carts.

Wigmaker – They are working on constructing a Bob Wig that was seen in Germany (comprised of human and horse hair), a wiglet for one of our AI’s., a wig for Richard Schuman (aka Patrick Henry), and daily maintenance on wigs used by our staff to support various programming (Plays, Ghost Tours, Rev City and commercials).

Addendum for Sept 6-12

Carpenters – They will be installing doors and shutters on the Scale House, building market stalls for the Market House, and working with electricians to install low-voltage lighting in the buildings and stalls. Work continues on the windmill.

Foodways – They are working on a new beer with Aleworks. They are also working on a series of pre-made punch mixes based on 18th-century recipes, getting ready for the first brewing program of the fall on September 27th, and practicing on some sugar work for next year’s confections program.

Weavers - **They will be dyeing on Saturday, Sept 12th.** They are also finishing fabric for Foodways table linens and a coverlet for Prentis.