



**THE
MECHANICK'S
ADVISOR**

3/2/24

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Blacksmith

Daily

Recently the work of the Blacksmiths has been focused towards hardware as will be needed by the Bray School. Such as Nails, Hinges, Shutter Dogs, and Locks. Alex and Broadus both nearing completion of their first locks, Stock Locks, the final step for these being a bit of woodworking. Unlike the more prominent case locks with their iron or brass cases, the cheaper stock locks are cased in wood, and have simplified inner workings. In looking at 18th century English architecture you often see a hierarchy of locks as you move away from the front door of a house, the front door will have the finest lock such as a brass cased lock, the secondary doors like bedroom or back doors often have iron case locks, and then the doors farthest from the entrance like cellar doors or outbuilding doors may have wooden cased stock locks.

- Broadus Thompson, Apprentice Blacksmith



Alex cutting out space in the stock for the locking mechanism to fit.

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Brickyard

Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday

This week the Brickyard crew is undertaking the sizeable task of removing the coping and shoulder bricks from the Magazine wall sections. This requires hammer, chisels, and the occasional power tool to remove the Portland cement from the 1930s brick work. Once we remove the shoulder bricks, the ones that taper the wall to the copings, we can more easily lift up the copings.

- Madeleine Bolton



Master Josh at work!

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Cabinetmaker

Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday

For cabinetmakers Bill Pavlak and John Peeler, much of 2024 will center on furniture work for the Bray School. The past two weeks both Bill and John spent some time in Collections looking at the originals that serve as the models for their reproductions. As usual, they are recording dimensions, tracing shapes, and surveying surfaces for tool marks and other clues as to the original process of manufacture. John will be making a dressing table and, later in the year a dining table. Bill will be making a desk. All three pieces represent objects school mistress Ann Wager would likely have used in her living quarters. Amid all of the antique study and material selection, apprentice Tam has been busy planing away at some poplar for her tool chest project.

- Bill Pavlak



Bill was finding the most economical and aesthetically pleasing way to utilize these three wide walnut boards for his desk reproduction.



The original desk from the Colonial Williamsburg Collection - made between 1749 and 1753 in Southampton County, VA.

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Carpenter

Sunday through Thursday

We continue to make shingles for the Bray and First Baptist Church projects. Maybe a month more to go before we're done. We are knifing a clean face on the bottom 6" of the shingles and rounding the butts of them.

- Matthew Sanbury, Journeyman Carpenter



*One of
the eight
or nine
pallet
boxes of
shingles.
About
2000
shingles
per box.*

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Cook

Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

It has been two more weeks full of surprise fortune over at the Palace Kitchen, starting as one of our regular families brought us a few hard-to-find meats for use in our programming. Thanks to Eugene and Family we now have whole duck, whole rabbit, and two hens for the table. Darren from Coach and Livestock also gifted us with a beautiful rump of venison that was so large we put it into thirds to use in multiple recipes. Coach and Livestock were also instrumental in the pop-up butchering program we held this past Saturday, by gifting us four Lester Longwool Sheep (shoutout to Darren for coming up to help us butcher that afternoon). Special thanks go to our friends down at the Anderson Blacksmith Shop for always sharpening our butchering tools and for looking into supplying us with new styles of hatchets, cleavers, and knives to make our work more efficient and accurate to the 18th century. We feel extremely fortunate to have such standout colleagues and guests.

- Charlotte Shoaf



A selection of cuts from Saturday's butchering program.

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Cooper

Tuesday through Saturday

The Coopers have had a busy training schedule over the last few weeks, attending both the Winter Symposium classes on the Foundation's interpretive pillars and sessions on Guest Service. Work continues in the shop, of course, if at a slightly slower pace. We've completed a few piggins and have a gunpowder cask under construction.

- Jonathan Hallman



*A gunpowder half-barrel
under construction and
ready for trussing.*

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Engraver

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday through Saturday

Recently, Master Engraver Lynn Zelesnikar completed a copper plate of a design she carved out once before, she has now made it bigger and better. Apprentice engraver William Flemming recently completed the engraving of three bottle tags created by the silversmiths.

- Emma Allardice, Apprentice Engraver



Copper plate engraved by Lynn Z. Bottle tags engraved by William F.

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Farmer

The historic farmers moved their office/break room from Great Hopes Plantation this week. The new spot is the Pasteur Galt Little Shop down the alley behind the Apothecary Shop. We sure have a lot of books and files on agriculture as you can see in the photo! Gone to the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma next week... More about that next time.

- Ed Schultz



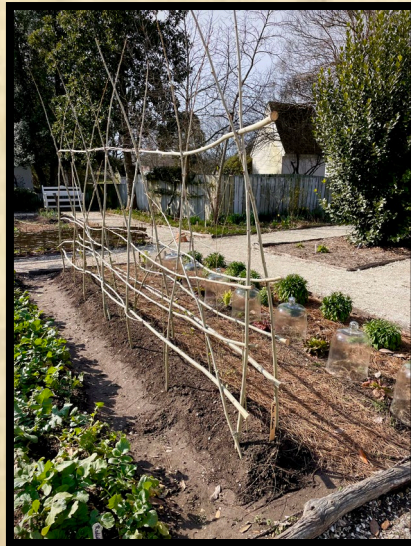
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Gardener

Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

Spring is right around the corner! At the Historic Garden bulbs and early flowers are beginning to bloom, and many of our overwintered vegetables are ready for harvest. Over the last two weeks we harvested purple broccoli, cabbage, parsley, lettuce, and edible *Viola tricolor* flowers for the Historic Cooks at the Governor's Palace Kitchen. We planted our first seeds of the year, hotspur peas, directly into the garden, and we built a trellis to support them. Thank you to the Landscape Department for the delivery of pollarded sycamore branches. We use these branches to build trellises and panels of wattle fence at our site. Visitors to the garden may notice the absence of our cold frame and hotbeds this spring: they will be receiving some much-needed repair and restoration behind the scenes.

- Teal Brooks



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Joiner

Sunday through Thursday

As diligent readers may recall, this year our shop will be producing a set of furniture for the Bray School, reproducing some original pieces in our museum collection. Ayinde has begun work on a blanket chest, one of two that will be made this year. Brian likewise has started on parts for an armchair with turned features, and once supplies arrive, Peter will be diving in on a set of ladder-back chairs. Laura's progress on the Engraver's tool chest continues with hardware installation and soon, paint! After that she'll start the second blanket chest needed for the School.

- Laura Hollowood



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Milliner and Mantua-Maker

Sunday through Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday

Over the last two weeks, we've welcomed two NIAHD interns - Julia and Megan - into the shop. While listening to and learning from our interpretation, they're keeping their hands busy stitching themselves workbags, sewing rolls, and pincushions. Kate is mending a pair of stays, while Rebecca has been working on a cloak for HC&D and Janea has been finishing up a new shift and petticoat. We're also doing research for our upcoming lecture about clothing and textiles in the world of the Bray School.

- Rebecca Godzik



*Setting in the partial
lining on the cloak's
hood*

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Shoemaker

Daily

Victoria is almost halfway through her first pair of dancing pumps. Nicole is closing the uppers for Matt Sanbury's half-boots. Val just finished a pair of common shoes for Eve Otmar and is beginning construction on a pair for himself.

- Valentine Povinelli



Val's common shoes for Eve Otmar. Victoria's dancing pump.

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Silversmith

Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

Trays are the main focus of the silversmith. Megan is very close to finishing her first fish trowel and is getting rid of some scratches and file marks on her tray. Chris is nearly done chasing hers and Bobbie has been making more rims for the next trays in the line. Preston has been preparing a tray of jewelry and bottle tags the engravers recently sent over for retail. George has been refinishing a large amount of our stakes and hammers.

- Megan Cantwell



Megan's fish trowel.

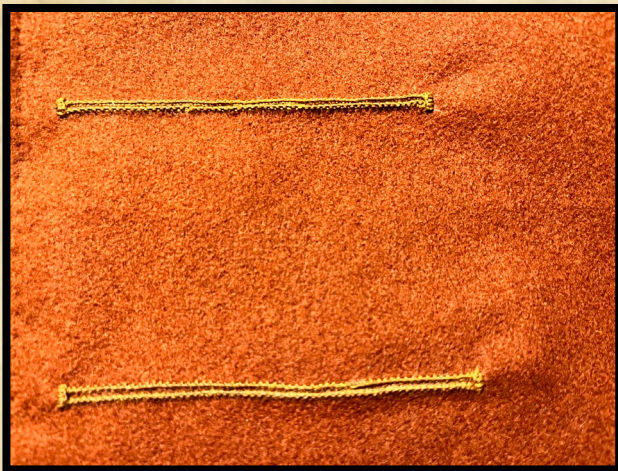
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Tailor

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

Mr. McCarty, journeyman, is making up a coat for Mr. Logue, apprentice. He is currently working on the buttonholes. It was not unusual for some buttonholes on coats and waistcoat to be only decorative. This is the case for the current buttonholes he is stitching.

- Michael McCarty, Journeyman Tailor



The only working buttonholes on the coat will be at the level of the chest. On the reconstruction of the coat belonging to John Blair, one can see the working buttonholes above the level of the pocket and the decorative ones below.

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Tin Plate Worker

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

This week, Steve has been working on lanterns, including a new style with glass panes for military programs. Jenny completed one of the very large canisters for Mount Vernon and is now working on the second one. Soren, our William & Mary intern, made his first tinderbox.

- Jennifer Lynn



The large canister for Mount Vernon based off of one in their collections.

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Wheelwright

Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday

We welcome Joseph Conley into the Wheelwright Shop as an Apprentice. Joseph comes to us with interpretive experience from Fort Ticonderoga in New York and The Museum of the American Revolution in Philly.

Work continues on the Pug Mill for Masonry Trades and wheelbarrows for the Lewes Historic Society in Delaware.

- Paul Zelesnikar



A "Pudding Barrow," essentially, a food truck. This had the ability to both cook and serve puddings to the public...

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Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Bookbinder**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Cabinetmaker**

- *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*

- **Cooper**

- *Tuesday through Saturday*

- **Farmer**

- *Closed for the Season*

- **Fife and Drum**

- **Founder**

- *Tuesday through Saturday*

- **Historic Masonry**

- *Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday*

- **Milliner and Mantua-Maker**

- *Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday*

- **Musket Ranger**

- *Ticket Event*

- **Silversmith**

- *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Shoemaker**

- *Daily*

- **Tin Plate Worker**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Wheelwright**

- *Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday*

- **Wigmaker**

- *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday*

Editor.

Matthew Siepinski