

# THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

## for January 30 – February 6

WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFICIALY WELCOME THE NEW STAFF OF  
HISTORIC TRADES AND SKILLS:  
FIFES AND DRUMS, DANCE, MUSIC, AND MILITARY  
PROGRAMS!!

LOOK FOR INFORMATION ON THEIR SITES IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

**Apothecary** – They will be supporting Foodways with their upcoming program on Confections, “Sugar, Spice and All That’s Nice”. Both Robin and Sharon will be working on their programs for Women's History Month.

**Armoury** – The Blacksmiths and Tinsmiths studied iron and tin collections at the Philadelphia Museum of Art this past week.

**Artificer's Shop** – They will be dressing leadership hats for Fife and Drum and a number of cartridge pouches for the new musket range. It is with genuine pleasure that we welcome our old friends in Military Programs, Music, and Dance as well as the Fifes and Drums to the Trades family.

**Basketmaker** – They will continue to work on in-house requests: baskets for Great Hopes, the Foundry, and the A.I.s. They are also always trying to keep items in the Prentis.

**Bindery** – They have completed four books for Prentis Store. They are now working on two small pocket journals, stitch books, and continuing to bind law books for the Capitol.

**Cabinetmaker** – Having just concluded their annual “Working Wood in the 18th Century” Symposium, the Anthony Hay Shop staff is back in the shop. Work will resume to complete the presentation pieces: a brass-banded mahogany tea caddy, a tripod music stand, and an easy chair frame. The harpsichord makers will continue work on components for a spinet.

**Candlemaker** – A meeting was held with Laura Viancour and Joanne Chapman from the Landscape Department to discuss various walking tour options. Landscape operates a garden tour in the warmer months and shared a wealth of knowledge about operations and content. Joyce Moon in Purchasing continues the effort to acquire equipment needed for the shop. Discussions continue with Beth Kelly on bringing Orientation Interpreters into the shop as Candlemaking Interpreters.

**Carpenters** – They are repairing and reroofing the cowshed behind the Randolph house. The Gunsmith forge building repairs are complete.

**Foodways** – Join Historic Foodways as they venture into the world of “Sugar, Spice and All Things Nice” at the Governor's Palace Kitchen. Learn the secrets of the confectioner as they demonstrate making confections throughout the day. Marvel at the beauty of an 18th-century dessert table. The high point is when the guests get to help make an 18th-

century confection! There will be two hands-on classes taking place in the Scullery. The Apothecary will also be featuring confections in the medical world throughout the day.

Melissa Blank will be participating in the 2016 iForum to be hosted at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation on March 3-5. She will be presenting her paper on Mary Randolph and her influence in Virginia's culinary history.

**Gunsmith** – The shop has moved to the Ayscough House and will be ready to receive guests on Sunday, January 31st. They have been very busy packing and then unpacking the shop and the office and getting the shop ready for guests and work. The forge has a new roof thanks to the Carpenters. They helped the Gunsmiths hang the bellows and move heavy stuff, too. All of the trades helped them move lots of stuff and get the shop back into shape. THANKS FOR EVERYONE'S HELP.

**Foundry** – They have finished a plaque and bell for the First Baptist Church and “Let Freedom Ring.”

**Historic Garden** – The garden is a little worse for wear after all of the cold temperatures this month. They have lost almost all of the turnips, the Portuguese kale, endive, mustard, and garden cress. However, the spinach, winter cress, and savoy cabbage are all tasty as ever! Wesley reports that after taking home a frozen savoy cabbage, letting it thaw and cooking it, it rivaled to be the tastiest savoy he has ever had! The artichokes and cardoon are struggling along; but with the help of snow for insulation, they are making it through. The same is true of the broccoli, kales, and parsley. Their big January project, the hotbed, has been started. Manure was gathered and heaped, heated to 150 degrees, and loaded into the frame on Monday. The heat in the frame will steadily rise until they are ready to put composted manure in it and start their spring seeds.



Artichoke insulated by snow. The crown poking through is still alive.



Bell jars will protect the surviving parsley plants. To the left are dead Portuguese kale.

**Joinery** – The new Joinery will open on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> in the Taliaferro-Cole Shop.

**Milliners and Mantua-makers** – They are making some new interpretative objects for the Spring Season and a few things for Products. They are also working on the proposals for one mid-1780's gown to be made for exhibition at the DAR museum and two Quaker gowns for the Museum of the American Revolution.

**Printers** – The pressmen are printing off blank Tobacco Crop notes and Transfer notes that will eventually be sold in the Post Office.

**Shoemakers** – It has been a busy January. In addition to divisional training, they have been hard at work on production, repair, and research. Two pairs of common shoes are currently in production for staff and should be finished up early in February. Their apprentice is also looking to have his first pair of turn shoes completed in the next two weeks. Earlier in the month, the “Making History Now” blog featured the black-ball making done in November. You can read the post here <http://makinghistorynow.com/2016/01/making-the-curious-black-ball/>.

**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, 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.

**Wheelwright** – The ox cart is all but finished. This week, they will start on ox wagon for children's rides.

**Wigmaker** – Debbie is still working on her reproduction of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century bob wig that she had studied while she was in Germany. Maintenance continues on the wigs that the actors/actresses, dancers, and musicians have been dropping off since early January.