

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

January 27, 2023

Anthony Hay Shop – The Cabinetmaker and Harpsichordmaker is open Monday and Wednesday through Saturday.

Apothecary – This week, we're keeping busy finishing our Performance Management SMART goals (that's Sialogogues, Mundifiers, Astringents, Relaxants, and Thoriacs, right?) but also continuing with some individual projects. Mark will be making a new batch of syrup of lemon juice, a sweet, acidic agent to cleanse the throat and cool the body. Sharon is a third of the way through cross-checking the Galt-Barraud Ledger A - finding individuals like Mr. Godfrey, who in 1798 paid Dr. Galt for six months' board. Margaret gave a virtual talk on mental illness and the Public Hospital to the Teacher Institute on January 19th and is learning more details of patient life by going through 19th-century treatment records.

The Apothecary Shop is open Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Armoury:

Blacksmith – With the woodworking conference in town, the Blacksmith Shop has been focusing on tools relevant to the attendants: Ken has been working hard on chisels, holdfasts, and hatchets; Mark on knives for marquetry; and Aislinn, Alex, and Josh on hammers big and small. Broadus has been sticking to kitchen utensils, filing and finishing spoons and ladles, and Alex has been working on calipers, as well. For this week's Guest comment, we heard the following: "We come here to see the Historic Trades, because where else in the world can you see such unique talents as those of Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Tradespeople?"

During the Shop's Research Day, most went to the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library to study architectural drawings of the gates that were reconstructed for the Governor's Palace. The group then moved on to archaeology to study pieces recovered from the Anderson site, while assisting archaeologists in properly identifying objects based on our extensive knowledge of period ironwork. Alex was the main exception, spending the day at William & Mary's Swem Library. He read through the Jerdone Family papers for descriptions of Providence Forge, the nearest ironworks to Williamsburg, which produced bars of iron for forging, as well as axes, hoes, and a few other implements. Whether decorated or plain, keep it out of the rain, for all's well that falls well at the foot of the anvil.

The Blacksmith Shop is open Sunday through Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday.

Tinsmith – This week, our first day was busy in the Tin Shop. We are still down one person, but it did not feel like it as we had both our Intern Soren and Caitlin, a visiting tinsmith from the Frontier Culture Museum, working with us. As usual, we are filling out orders, many from outside the Foundation.

This year is the Tin Shop's "tin anniversary" (ten years), and we had commemorative caps made for ourselves. The first Tinsmith was hired on July 1st, 2013, and the Shop officially opened that same year in the fall. Inspired by the Armoury's logo originally designed by Erik Goldstein, from which the banners, CW initials, and crossed sabers were borrowed, the Tin Shop logo shows a horn-paned lantern typical of those used in the navies of the period, and the years 1778 – 1780, the period of activity of the Historic Shop. Yes, all the lanterns of that type that we have examined were green.



Both Caitlin and Soren are seen here working on gill cups.



Lately, Steve finished two iron candlesticks and a horn-paned lantern (lanthorn).



The commemorative cap with the logo

The Tin Shop is open Tuesday through Thursday, and Saturday.

Brickmaker – This week in the Brickyard saw continued work on unstacking the kiln, and some paving as well. The paving in question is under our drying shed, as it requires a level ground surface. Establishing this paving will allow the Carpenters to have a surface to work off to start on siding. Otherwise, this week, the crew pondered goals for the months to come, and then some.



The Brickyard is open Sunday through Thursday, weather permitting.

Carpenter – This week, the Carpenters have started to make the half-lapped boards for the shuttered windows at the Farm site. Mary and Harold have both continued to install the clapboard siding for the gable. On Thursday, Mary and Matt helped with the behind-the-scenes tour at the Robert Carter House for the woodworking conference, and Harold will present onstage at the Hennage for the conference, as well. It's always a busy time of the year.

The Carpenters will primarily be at the Carpenter's Yard Tuesday through Saturday, weather permitting. The site will be closed 12:30-2:00pm on Tuesday, January 31.

Colonial Garden – It is still very much winter in the Historic Garden, but some of the plants have started to respond to the lengthening days as we approach spring. Greens from daffodils (*Narcissus spp.*) and Leucojum (*Leucojum aestivum*) are visible around the Garden, our recently planted broad bean (*Vicia faba*) seeds are starting to germinate, and our overwintered cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea*) plants have started to form heads. This week, the Historic Gardeners finished the annual turning of our compost piles and, on the warmer days, did some weeding and cleaning around the Garden beds. We sent several lettuces, two varieties of turnips, sweet potatoes, dried peppers, and an assortment of herbs to the Historic Cooks at the Governor's Palace Kitchen.

This week also contained a noteworthy date in history for the site of our Garden: January 21st, 1776, the day that the house formerly rented to cabinetmaker Peter Scott burnt to the ground. In a letter to George Washington, Edmund Randolph writes, "Mr. Custis's Tenement, where Scott lived, opposite to the Church, was burned to the ground, by the Negligence of some of the Soldiers, who had been quartered there. The Wind, being due South, the out-house escaped Flames. The Difficulty of saving the Church became thereby very great. The Country are surely answerable for this Damage, as it accrued in their Service."



A head of cauliflower starting to form (left). Lettuce, turnips, sweet potatoes, dried peppers, and herbs from the Garden (right).



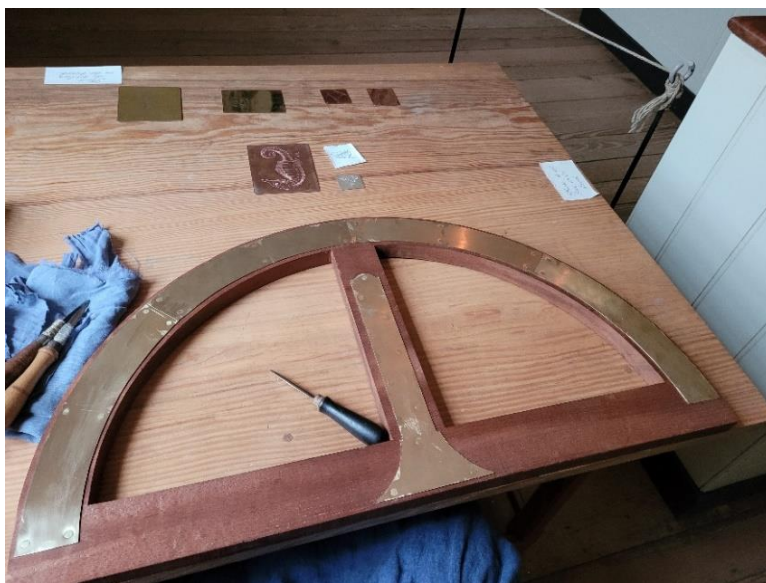
Volunteer Chip and Apprentice Marc turn the last of the compost pile

The Colonial Garden is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, weather permitting.

Cooper – The Cooper Shop is open Sunday, Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Engraver – The Engraving Shop has been getting used to our new schedule change and working on our goals for the year. There have been a few custom orders completed, and a few new ones for which we are preparing. There has been lots of drawing, as usual, and getting in some practice. William has worked on custom orders including a heart pendant and is today working on a sterling ladle and completing a copper plate. Hopefully, the Shop will fit in some printing here soon.

Lynn has been working on an 18k wedding ring for the Silversmiths, a pewter buckle pattern for the Founders is being engraved (this will be a pattern for casting), and Wheelwright Apprentice Murphy's Paul Bunyan-sized protractor is being cleaned up. The protractor was delivered with the brass sheet mounted, and there will be some stoning and hand polishing before the engraving can be laid out. The layout will be penciled on, then hand cut.



The Engraving Shop is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Foodways – The Palace Kitchen is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Foundry – This week started off with another sold-out Workshop. While Apprentices Drew and Leanne helped guide the Guests through the finishing work on their spoons, Journeyman Mike made sure to replenish the supply so our full crowd this coming Saturday will be able to, as well. That afternoon, since the forge was still hot, and we didn't want to waste it, we all worked on replenishing our supplies of pewter buttons. If you need any for upcoming projects, be sure to stop by; we have plenty. We Founders have also been looking ahead for the year to develop our SMART goals, so exciting projects will be coming up soon!



Workshop



Casting spoons



Leanne and Drew both casting buttons



Buttons

The Foundry is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (11:30-4:30).

Gunsmith – This last week in the Gunsmith Shop, Darrin has been casting some brass mounts for the set of pistols. After packing the damp sand around the wood patterns, the patterns are then removed, forming the cavity where the 2000°+ molten brass will flow. There is an old phrase that comes from casting metal, "They broke the mold when they made you". The mold is destroyed to remove the casting, so each one is unique. Now the filing begins.





The Gunsmith Shop is open Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday.

Historic Farming – Apprentice Kevin Tobias and Ed Schultz did some filming at Ewing Field this week for the Development Department. The new Farming site is completely funded by generous contributions from Donors. We are very grateful!



Kevin is filmed by Layne Chappell.



The Innovation Studio filming team of Layne Chappell, Da-Veia Brown, and Leslie Clark, and Farmer Kevin Tobias.

Joinery – The Joinery is open Tuesday through Saturday.

Leather Breeches Maker – Greetings one and all from the Leather Breeches Maker Shop. With our second week behind us, we are beginning to get ourselves settled in and are getting comfortable with our new direction.

We are very excited this week to have a special guest join us in the Shop. Mr. Sam McGinty has joined us from the Frontier Culture Museum, where he is their Costume Coordinator. Thanks to an exchange program that is being developed between The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and The Frontier Culture Museum, he is here receiving a crash course in the trade of Leather Breeches Making. Sam is no stranger to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation having worked for three years with our Military Programs Department and is excited to be back for this opportunity. Sam will be with us through Monday, January 30th. Please feel free to stop by to say hello and check out his progress.







In other, less happy, news, Journeyman Jan Tilley will be taking some time away from the Shop due to the aggressive advancement of his cancer. He would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming outpouring of love and support and hopes to be able to reach a point in his treatments where he will be able to return. He does ask that any and all who feel so inclined come down to the Leather Breeches Maker Shop and write a small missive in a book that was graciously presented to him by our colleagues in the Bookbindery.



Thank you to everyone who has stopped by to visit our new operation, and we look forward to serving you in all of your Leather Breeches needs.

“Non Sanguinem in Corio”
“Don’t Bleed on the Leather”

The Leather Breeches Maker is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Military Programs – Military Programs has been working diligently on finalizing their goals for the year, as well as adjusting to their new curriculum! Military Programs is officially the second Skill to implement a curriculum to advance their skills and knowledge as the Department moves into some exciting years ahead. Unfortunately, we are also adjusting to the loss of Josh Bucchioni, who has recently departed from our staff. We wish him the best in his future endeavors, and as a tribute, would like to show off two of his newest creations before he left.

FRENCH FLAGS

The flags (Drapeaux) carried by French forces in the American Revolution had a much larger variety of styles than those used within the British Army. For the most part, the French regiments that served in North America were divided into two battalions. The 1st of the Battalions carried a Drapeau Colonel or Colonel’s flag. This was generally a white flag with a white cross and white embroidery, though a few units carried something a bit different to reflect that regiment’s background. Many American artists and others that tried to depict or describe the Drapeau Colonel did not do so correctly, and so many modern reproductions based on these accounts are filled with errors. The 2nd Battalion of the regiment carried a Drapeau d’Ordonnance or Ordonnance flag, that was usually much more colorful with its four quadrants varying in color and design depending on the regiment. These designs were reflected in the embroidery upon the Drapeau Colonel. For much more detailed information, see the upcoming book to be published by Mr. Steven Hill of DuPage Military flags. Mr. Hill was kind enough to contribute his thoughts and research into the French flags below.

The Régiment de Gâtinais was a new regiment within the French Army that had been formed in 1776 by separating the 2nd and 4th Battalions of the Régiment d’Auvergne. The new unit was numbered behind the Auvergne in seniority (17th & 18th) within the French designation system. The designs of the Drapeaux for the Gâtinais was also an offshoot of the Drapeaux used by the Auvergne, of which the cantons had been violet and black in opposition. For the new ordonnance flags, the outer portion of each canton was cut off, rotated one canton over, and resewn diagonally. The unit served with distinction at the Siege of Yorktown, and elements participated in the assault on Redoubt #9. Their performance in the assault earned them a new regimental title granted by the King, “Royal Auvergne”, in 1782.

This reproduction (right) is fairly straightforward in its white-on-white-on-white configuration, with the embroidery matching the color changes in the Ordonnance flag. Since no original French flags of this style are extant, there is some speculation as to how wide and thick the embroidery was on the flag. The decision was made to perhaps over-emphasize the stitches in order to have them more visible and show a difference in texture on the flag. The idea was to have the flag appear as more than just a “surrender” flag that the average person assumes it to be.





This reproduction (left) was slightly more complex because a number of modern sources not only disagree on the colors used, but also in their placement on the flag. Going back to the original French regulations, the Gâtinais used the same color scheme as the Auvergne, and that was clearly documented violet and black. The most common mistake is that many modern sources rotate the flag 90 degrees from the orientation of this reproduction. The original sources say nothing about which way is correct, and in fact, it could have varied at different times. The best source we have depicting this flag during the war are several versions of the painting “The Surrender of Yorktown” by Louis-Nicolas van Blarenberghe. Van Blarenberghe was very precise in his details of the French Army and had a number of witnesses

give him notes on the surrender. He depicted all of the French Drapeaux with a great degree of accuracy. The Drapeaux of the Régiment de Gâtinais were depicted as seen to the left, and his works were the guide for these reproductions. <https://americanhistory.si.edu/american-revolution/yorktown-triumph-alliance/siege-and-surrender>

Siege and Surrender | National Museum of American History

This French perspective of the Yorktown surrender was the Comte de Rochambeau’s copy of a painting done for King Louis XVI. It emphasizes the British soldiers, in red, parading in humiliating surrender at Yorktown before their French enemies, decked in blue.

americanhistory.si.edu

Military Interpretation at the Guardhouse is open Daily.

Milliner and Mantua-maker – Ishbel Newton, our NIAHD Intern, begins her semester adventures into our 18th-century world today! We hope she will enjoy her time with us - you know, a little sewing, some fun, some study, and some skilled sharing with our Guests, amongst other good times.

In other endeavors, we are working on the two gowns commissioned by the Delaware First State Heritage Park and the clothing we are making for our “Women’s History Month” program – *Disaster Strikes!* The rationale for this program is framed around the idea of:

Whatever is a girl to do if the house burns down and all you have to wear is your sleeping shift, slippers, and a blanket? Fortunately, you had the presence of mind to grab your pocket with your pocketbook on the way out the window, so there is money available. Well, a complete outfit from skin out, head-to-toe, is among the first order of business.

This program explores the cost of one single complete ensemble based on the prices set down in a 1769-1770 daybook from Louisa County. What fun we have had debating the cost of an Irish linen gown at 1s 6d a yard verses a Virginia Cloth fabric at 2s the yard! Thanks to our wonderful Weavers down the street for helping us with that particular question.

But our best and biggest news this week: Kate has completed her Apprenticeship curriculum for Level 1 and is now working industriously into the next phase of her studies.

Your regular correspondent will be back next week.

Department of Historic Trades and Skills

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The Milliner and Mantua-maker will be open Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday.

Musket Range – The Musket Range, as with all other staffs, is finalizing our goals for the year. This is exciting for us because it's happening while we are in the process of transitioning to a new Supervisor, Jeff Thomas. Jeff has been with the Musket Range since its creation in 2016, and no one knows the unit better. We wish him great success as he works into his new role. Also, for the first time since its beginning, one of our staff, Scott Bradford, is endeavoring to learn gun repair and maintenance along with Christopher Grieb from Military Programs. They have also been collaborating on some new program ideas for the future experiences for CW Guests to try out at the Range and see at Military Programs. We will keep you posted as things develop.

Finally, as mentioned previously, the Musket Range is hiring! We are still accepting applications for two new Musket Range Instructor positions, so if you know someone who might be a good fit for us, please encourage them to apply!

The Musket Range is open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday with sessions at 9:30am, 11am, 1:30pm, and 3pm.

Printer and Bookbinder:

Printing Office – Friday, January 27th, 2023, was a big day for the Printers. We have finished printing, sorting, and folding sections of “Every Man his own Doctor” and shifted to newspaper printing for the foreseeable future.



The Printing Office is open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Bindery – The Bookbindery is open Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday.

Shoemaker – Val, Victoria, and Nicole are working on their goals for the 2023 Goal Planning on UKG. Val is reading *Trust & Inspire* by Stephen M.R. Covey, for his February and March meetings. Victoria is almost done with a pair of slippers, and Nicole is nearly done with a pair of common shoes for Teal Brooks. Val is closing uppers for a pair of shoes going to Tim Logue. To continue with Victoria's apprenticeship, the Shop just made a batch of black wax, which is used to coat our sewing threads. Val is starting to put together an order list for the Shop's leather dressing project.

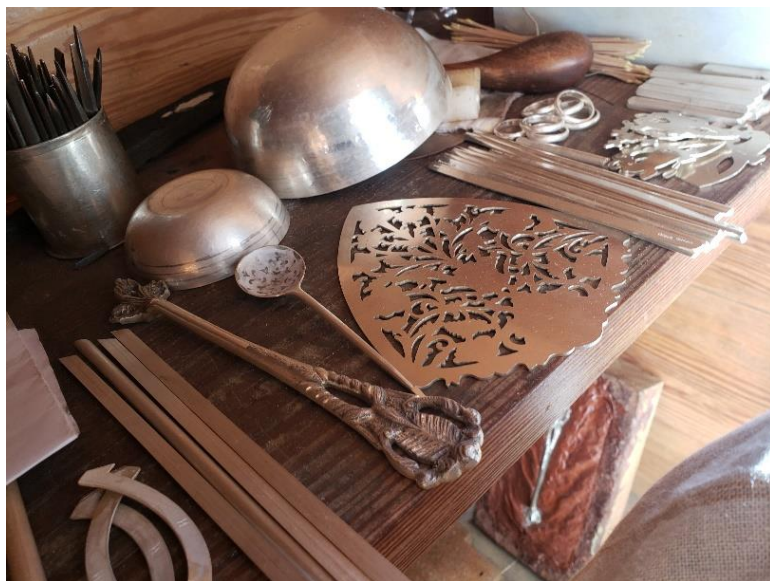


Victoria making black wax



The Shoemakers will be working at the Leather Breeches Maker Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Silversmith – The Silversmiths are busy ... silversmithing! Megan continues to work on the tray rim, her mote spoon, trade silver, and her bowl. Chris has flattened her tray and is doing repair work on silver arm bands for our colleagues at the American Indian Initiative. Bobbie has been chasing and began the process of setting the well of her tray. Preston has finished a silver gurney bowl and continues to work on more. They're very popular items among our Guests. George has been rolling sheet silver from our ingots and has been hammering out more spoons. Bobbie has been deciphering more of Ann Craig's will.



Megan's various projects under her work bench (left). Chris malleting the silver arm bands back into shape (right).



The silver armbands are starting to look much more uniform.



Bobbie setting the well of her tray with a mallet



Preston's gurney bowl

The Silversmith Shop will be open Sunday through Thursday.

Tailor – This week, the Tailors have been busy collaborating with other Shops, Sites, and Departments across the Foundation. Master Mark Hutter has spent several afternoons teaching the interpretive staff of the Palace to decipher the lists of clothing and textiles ordered for Lord Dunmore and his household, and to better understand what those items tell us about the people, both free and enslaved, who occupied those spaces in the 18th century. From silver-laced livery uniforms worn by footmen to strong shoes and durable linen Oznabrigs worn by those who labored on the Governor's plantation, and from the fashionable earrings "set like daimonds" (sic) ordered for Mrs. Scott, a high-ranking servant in the household, to his Lordship's own high-quality but unadorned suits, the clothing described gives insight to the activities, personalities, needs, and experiences of the people of the past.

Journeyman Michael McCarty has begun working with Mathew Gnagy, the new Manager of the Department of Historical Clothing and Dress (formerly the Costume Design Center) to learn digital pattern drafting methods using the Illustrator program. While we will always draft the patterns for the garments that we make using historic hand-methods, we can employ digital-methods when recording patterns from original

garments, which can help to minimize handling of the antique and better ensure its preservation. McCarty is also working with Gnagy to pattern a new suit for Nation Builder Mark Schneider when he portrays the Marquis de Lafayette during the hero's return to the United States in 1824. The coat for the new suit is based in part on a rare original from the collection of The Museum of the Daughters of the American Revolution that McCarty and Hutter studied, patterned, and published in the exhibit catalogue, "An Agreeable Tyrant."

This week, Hutter and Apprentice Tim Logue spent time with Gnagy and staff examining original gloves in the CWF Collection. Although glove makers were a trade unto themselves in the 18th century, Hutter and Logue have previously studied and made gloves in order to have accurate accessories to the clothing that they produce as Tailors. They are pleased to work with HC&D staff as they venture into glove making to provide appropriate hand-wear for CW's costumed interpreters. One of the original gloves in the CWF Collection has a feature of special historical interest: the ink stamp of the original maker, along with a small paper stamp glued to the interior recording the three-pence duty paid. From 1785 until 1794, a minor tax was levied against the dealer of each pair of gloves sold in England. This was part of a much larger effort to increase government finances in order to pay for the late war.



Original coat in DAR collection, accession # 81 (left). Stamps inside original glove in CWF Collection, accession # 1936-596 (right).



Gloves made by Hutter based on originals worn by George Washington.

The Tailor Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing – The Weaving Shop will be open Sunday through Thursday.

Wheelwright – The Wheelwright Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Wigmaker – We've had an exciting week! We had to do some re-arranging of office furniture in order to prevent any fire hazards, and it has resulted in both Debbie and Edith being much happier with their desk placement. Benton is still in his same general location, but his desk orientation has changed a bit, as well. So far, we've enjoyed having more open space for moving around. In project news, Edith continues to work on her linen netting for her Journeyman wig. Benton is making headway on his Brigadier wig, and Debbie has been working on a new netted silk base. As always, feel free to reach out to us for any tonsorial needs.



The Wig Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The Mechanick's Adviser is a publication of the Colonial Williamsburg Department of Historic Trades & Skills.

Editor: Shari Monaco

Contributors: Apothecary – Margaret Perry; Armoury – Alex Hinman (Blacksmith) and Steve Delisle (Tinsmith); Brickmaker – Madeleine Bolton; Carpenter – Matt Sanbury; Colonial Garden – Teal Brooks; Engraver – Lynn Zelesnikar; Foundry – Leanne Bellouny; Gunsmith – Darrin McDonal; Historic Farming – Ed Schultz; Leather Breeches Maker – Jan Tilley; Military Programs – Justin Chapman; Milliner and Mantua-maker – Janea Whitacre; Musket Range – Justin Chapman; Printing Office and Bindery – Peter Stinely (Printer); Shoemaker – Val Povinelli; Silversmith – Megan Cantwell; Tailor – Mark Hutter; Wigmaker – Debbie Turpin