

# “THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

## For November 3 – 9, 2019

**Apothecary** – “Dena Kota from the VCU School of Pharmacy in Richmond has been working with us since early October. To date, she has made medicines to treat the following conditions:

- The intermittent fever, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century category for disease that includes malaria
- Improve appetite for sick patients - made two different medications
- Nausea
- Pills that were used as a laxative
- In progress is a medication that is the forerunner of a current cardiac drug

All of the above have been cross-referenced with modern professional sources. Each of these have varying levels of effectiveness by current standards.

“She has also helped out with almost all of our advertised October compounding programs and has been studying primary and secondary sources in our subject.

“We welcomed Mark Henley to our staff this past Sunday. Mark has been making meds with Dena and helped out with our last compounding program on Tuesday.

“Last week, we hosted Professor Carrie Dolan from William & Mary at our site. She shared about her work in the Caribbean and Africa in relation to tracking donations that support efforts to deal with epidemics and other health issues. This was a reciprocal exchange. As mentioned in an earlier ‘Advisor,’ Robin was a guest speaker at her class this fall.”

### **Armoury:**

**Blacksmith** – “Grisly greetings to our creepy cohorts this week, from the Slaymes Anderson Hacksmith Chop. There is a spooky spire laid up in the back, with Journeymen and Master giving assembly a whack. Mark has forged collars to be added there, their painful hollers echoing through the air. A pin for a wagon has also been his concern, hauling pumpkins to carve and witches to burn. There’s something that goes clack in the night: it’s Aislinn’s pattens causing a fright. At Alex’s bench, there are ribs galore, not from corpses but gridirons for the store. Owen’s got calipers to gauge a werewolf’s rampage, and his work on spatulas would please gourmand Draculas. Tim’s latch for the thumb has us screaming “red rum”, and the Apprentices’ nails add points to our tales at the foot of the anvil.”

**Cabinetmaker** – “We here in the Hay Cabinet Shop have been very busy since our last entry in the ‘Advisor’ and have had some big changes come our way. We will sorely miss our colleague and good friend Brian Weldy as he becomes Supervisor of the Joiner’s Shop, but we know that he is only a short walk away. This of course means that we are looking for a new Apprentice and hope to have the search complete soon.

“We have continued our weekly class, ‘Plane Talk’, with good success and the making of many extra bags of plane shavings. John, Bill, and Brian have made good progress on the high chest of drawers for our upcoming ‘Working Wood Conference’ in January, though many hours of planing and sawing remain to produce the parts needed for the upper and lower cases of the piece. John is in the final stages of completing his walnut writing table, and therefore, his first level of apprenticeship. Ed and Melanie are likewise in the finishing stage of their harpsichord, and as with many long projects, are very excited to begin a new instrument soon.”

**Colonial Garden** – “This week, we planted our flowers that will give us some beautiful blooms until the end of the year. Harvested and sent to the Palace Kitchen were radishes, leeks, onions, and sweet potatoes. We harvested the first of our lettuce and sent it to be served to the Governor. When the lettuce is harvested, replacements are planted in their place. These plants sit in the cold frame until needed and enable the Gardener to plant successive crops of lettuce all winter.

“The dry bed was weeded and will undergo a renovation. The soil will be amended to ease the effects of the sand in the soil. We await the prickly pear fruits to ripen and hope they hurry before it gets too cold. Bell jars are in use to protect against our rabbits but will also eventually guard against the cold weather that is coming. Garlic was planted as well as seed for flowers that will germinate in the cool.

“The Coopers repaired two of our buckets and replaced another that was beyond repair. The Carpenters brought us our frame for making straw mats. The mats will be used over the top of the hotbeds and bell jars as insulation.

Our week ended with a gathering of Volunteers that painted our Garden this summer. We shared a meal and admired our newly painted fences and outbuildings. Thank you for such an outstanding job done in the hottest time of year!”

**Farming** – “Chef Matthias Mahoefer at CW’s Inn receives at least 50 small carrots from thinning the patch at Prentis Field. These tender vegetables will eventually end up on diners’ plates in the Rockefeller Room. The carrots were grown to demonstrate Thomas Jefferson’s experiment with trying to replace oats with carrots for his horses. This was an English practice that T.J. learned from writings of the noted Agriculturist Arthur Young. Carrots grow better in England. Jefferson dropped them without explanation after several years.”



**Joinery** – “The Joiners are busy working on their projects for next year’s ‘Woodworking Conference.’ Amanda has been sizing up hickory trees, trying to find one that will yield good material for her chair. Scott is adjusting and fitting the frame for his food safe, which he hopes to have completed by the middle of November. Peter, meanwhile, turned traitor and left for the weekend to hang out with the Carpenters. He travelled to Lexington to participate in a timber-framing weekend, where he dutifully leaned against several important-looking pieces of wood and expressed much confusion over the lack of planes and benches. The attached video gives a general look at the work being done and has several good shots of Peter performing important duties such as standing in line for food and staring at timbers.”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w\\_pZ4xtaNOI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_pZ4xtaNOI)

**Silversmith** – " This week, Bobbie has been working on the Trades ornaments, including a copper bell and a brass coffee pot silhouette. Chris continues planishing her teapot. Lynn continues engraving the pewter trays when she can, though while in the Shop, she has been working on removing the engraving from two pewter pots that have been sitting around for a while. George continues to work on refurbishing the chasing tools and has been producing spoons. Parker has spent the week planishing and polishing his beaker cup. William has started working on the base for his gurney bowl. The entirety of the Shop eagerly awaits the return of Preston this coming weekend.”



Sketch of the coffee pot ornament