

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

for September 16 - 22

Armoury:

Blacksmith – “We are clearing benches, sweeping away dust, and relocating clutter to make room for our new Apprentices at the benches and forges. Owen and Alex have begun the long climb towards good nail making! Ken has been working on grid irons; Mark has made curtain rods, kitchen tools, and trowels; Aislinn is teaching a class this week at the New England School of Metalwork; Jessie is fitting pliers and tongs.”

Tinsmith – “Loud and clear is the sound of hammers making baking molds, unique horned lanterns, and plates.”

Brickmaker – “Brickmaking will end on September 16th to focus on dismantling last year’s clamps and constructing this season’s. We’ll still have clay in the pit, however, so we’ll be able to offer some treading for a few weeks afterward.”

Colonial Garden – “This week, the Gardeners continue preparing the beds for our fall crops. Our spinach and turnips have germinated, and we placed many of our seedlings, such as kale, cabbage, and lettuce, into clay pots where they will grow larger until we are ready to plant them in the ground. The castor beans and cypress vine are looking spectacular and have drawn the attention of many curious guests. We harvested a large basket of muscadine grapes for the Foodways Kitchens, as well as many peppers and beans. The initial hurricane forecast caused us a great deal of worry, and we spent time readying the Garden for strong winds and heavy rains. With the impending storm in mind, we harvested several of our most mature-looking cheese pumpkins, and held off planting several beds of root vegetables so that our seedlings will not wash away in the deluge.”

Gunsmith - “At the Gunshop, Eric has finished his rifle barrel, and we are now arranging a time to attempt to blow it up. The standard English proof of the time was a charge of powder equal to the weight of the bullet (or roughly 300% overcharge). We do this twice. If it passes proof, then it will receive the CW Gunshop touch mark, and Eric can begin stocking his rifle. Darrin is continuing to work on his forging techniques and is moving along quickly on his new lock. Richard and Darrin received a new batch of coal on Sunday, which ought to last for the next couple of years here. Richard is heading to Ohio next week to demonstrate gunsmith skills at a blacksmith conference.”

Joinery – “A very cloudy week is in store for the Joiners, but the courageous Apprentices will carry on as they always do. Working in a shop that relies entirely on the light of the sun for illumination can be quite a challenge during the darker months, especially when the lack of light is compounded by clouds and rain. The two brightest Apprentices will not suffer too badly, because they elected to work with light material that even the deepest of darks cannot cover. The third Apprentice is not so lucky, as he chose to work with black walnut, and is already having great difficulty finding his material, let alone discerning where he made his marks for his dovetails. Come, witness his struggle! Point and laugh! Learn from his mistakes....”

Military Programs – “Military Programs continues to work with the Costume Design Center to build the 80th Regiment of Foot Light Infantry Coats. Ian MacDougall has been working hard on the material research to make the equipment and uniforms as accurate as possible. Also, the staff at CDC have been incredible throughout this whole process. Below are some photos of the uniforms so far. The first image is the sleeved waistcoat, followed by the coatee, and lastly the cuffs and wings waiting to be attached. (Also, the model should be wearing overalls for this uniform, but due to logistics was wearing breeches at the time.) More updates to follow as the project progresses.”





Music - “The Music Department is currently holding auditions to fill our two vacancies: soprano and viola da gamba/cello, and look forward to being able to hire for these positions soon. ‘Palace Concerts: Instruments From the Collection’ has had its opening night and will be playing through October 9, as we prepare for ‘Monsters, Mayhem, &

Musick: Halloween with the Governor's Musick'. We are continuing 'An Afternoon with Governor's Musick' through the end of October.'"

Wigmaker – "While Florence may have passed us by, the Wig Shop still took the opportunity to stock up on Hurricane snacks, which they are now enjoying while continuing working on their ongoing projects (the Jefferson wig and the judicial wig). In addition to the two wigs being worked on, Regina is making two more hairpieces, and all members of the staff have been keeping up with maintenance and new requests. With fall having finally arrived (or at least the less hot temperatures), we're looking forward to Halloween and some fun projects to top off the outfits of some of those working the Trick or Treating event."