

# **“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”**

## **for September 2 - 8**

### **Armoury:**

**Blacksmith** – “The Departure has come of Mr. Steve Mankowski. We wind down the clock from days to hours and now hours to minutes. His last few days here were a flurry of filing and forging, in true fashion, working diligently until the last, finishing up projects unearthed from the strata that is thirty years of workbench accumulation. To mark the event, we wanted to retire his Jersey (shirt and barcode), but they all needed to be turned in and accounted for. So he passes back through the Costume Design Center, the portal that bears us all into and out of our assorted labors here. We are all the more fortunate to have overlapped, however brief, with such a talented Blacksmith and benevolent friend.

“In between goodbyes, we have made compasses, thumb laches, chisels, broilers, brick hammers, squares, and cooking utensils.”

**Tinsmith** – “The Tin Shop is bestrewn with parts for horn lanterns and teapots.”

**Brickmaker** – “Brickmaking will end on September 16th to focus on dismantling last year’s clampe 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.”

**Cabinetmaker** – “The Cabinetmakers continue working on two small boxes with secret compartments for the “Escape the King” program. Bill completed work on a drawing board for the Brickmakers and continues to build up the oil finish. Bill and Brian have taken the first steps in the elaborate “piecrust” tea table project for the forthcoming “Working Wood in the 18th Century” Conference. Bill is working on the drawing for the carved edge of the table, while Brian is drawing the column and trying to make sense of his notes. Ed is ‘plucking’ along with the new strings of the harpsichord, replacing as necessary. He will spend the next few weeks perfecting the keyboard’s action, adjusting the string tension, and reworking the jack posts.”

**Carpenter** – “The Carpenters are installing the Peyton Randolph well head, putting the finishing touches on the Gallows frame, and painting the hotbed frame for the Garden.”

**Colonial Garden** – “We have had quite the busy week at the Garden concerning the harvest. Our giant sunflowers have been taken down, and we’re harvesting the seeds for later use in the Garden and in children’s activities like making eighteenth-century seed packets. We also collected our first ears of gourd seed corn along with a large amount of beans and tomatoes. Chip and Griffin dug out a nice selection of potatoes, as well, and we even had a small harvest of carrots and welsh onions. The Palace and the Wythe Kitchens have been very happy to receive our produce in such quantities this past week. As with any Garden, colonial or modern, the weeding seems to never end. We’ve kept the beds nice and tidy and have been preparing them for our fall and winter crops. The old celery bed is ready for us to plant spinach in, and our propagation bed has many seedlings of leafy greens, root crops, and flowers that we have been repotting and moving to the cold frame. We also met the new Apprentice Blacksmith and shared one of the last of the Cypriot melons with him and the surrounding Trade Shops. With the weather being so hot, the melon was very well received by everyone.”

**Foundry** – “The Founders have been working on brass cloak pins and pewter candlesticks, and we are making pewter patterns for the large door hinges for Carter’s Grove. In the photo below, we are turning the pewter finials for the hinges.”





**Gunsmith** – “At the Gunsmith, Darrin is still forging parts for a rifle lock. Eric finished filing the exterior of his rifle barrel and made a rifle cutter and new head for the rifle saw. He has forged a couple breech plugs and will use one in the breech of his barrel. Richard is stocking his pistols. We are excited to have Jeff Geyer joining us for autumn as part-time intern assistance!”

**Joinery** – “The humble Apprentices at the Joinery remain steadfast as they join the cases for their hanging cupboards. Each case will be dovetailed together, and though the joints will be obscured by moldings on the finished product, no crown-molding in the world can hide the shame of poor joinery in an Apprentice’s heart. So if they seem distracted in the Shop, perhaps cut them a little slack; their honor as woodworkers is on the line!”

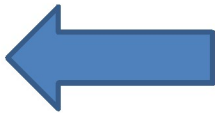
**Military Programs** – “Military Programs continues to work on the 80th Regiment Project, as well as continually developing more demonstrations for the "Necessity of Order in Battle" at the end of the day. We are also conducting research in preparation for various programs we hope to unveil next year.”

**Wigmaker** – “Greetings from the Wig Shop! Work continues on a variety of maintenance projects, as well as both the judicial and Jefferson wigs. Because both of these wigs have hair attached to them now, we thought we’d share some pictures. In both cases, the hair that has already been stitched on has been done using the serpentine method. Essentially, this means that instead of stitching on each individually measured row of hair, we weave a large amount of hair and stitch it all on at once, creating many rows. In the case of the Jefferson wig (the one with the darker base), we’re using a blend of brown human and auburn yak hair. The judicial wig (the lighter base) is a blend of gray, white, and black yak hair to





Mr. Jefferson's Wig



Judicial Wig



create the light gray look. Both of these wigs are starting to come together (relatively) quickly, so stop by to see the progress!”

