

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

For April 28 – May 4

Armoury:

Blacksmith – “In the Blacksmith Shop, you’ll find many of the same forgings, further along: sword guards, pliers, sign brackets, spoons, bench dogs, door handles, door latches, hasps, nails.”

Tin Shop – “Come see watering cans, coffee boxes, and tea canisters being put together with impressive hammeric deftness.”

Cabinetmaker – The Cabinetmaker will be closed for the next two weeks for preventative maintenance.

Colonial Garden – “The Gardeners spent time this week turning soil in preparation for planting. We cut the rye, thanks to the loan of a reaping sickle from Ed Schultz. The rye is in the back work yard drying, and we intend to make straw mats with it to cover our hotbeds in the colder months. Sowed in the hotbed: cucumber and Maycock squash, which has already germinated. Also sowed: Painted lady peas, pocket melon, and two types of cucumbers (long prickly and white). The willow hedge has begun to grow again and now will require regular shearing every other week. Cornflower was staked and the flower bed weeded. Turned the ground for our cardoon and artichokes, and we will replant the bed with cardoon slips and seedlings started in the hotbed. Blooming: Blue-eyed grass, Indian cress, roses, cross vine, tulips, Sweet William (and they were worth the wait), fava beans, dianthus, chives, and salsify. The Jerusalem artichokes are sprouting back from where we sowed the corms and from every small piece of root that was left in the ground from the fall harvest. We sent to the Kitchen at the Palace and Inn: leeks, lettuce, Welsh Onions, cabbage, carrots, beets, and radishes. Weeding and cleaning to prepare for Garden Week. And a huge thank you to our Volunteers, who have been painting our fences. The Garden looks fabulous.”

Farming – “Gourdseed corn was planted last week in one hundred hills. See the picture below of Rachel West and ‘Nation Builder Farmers School’ participant Daniel Cross, who is the Young George Washington.”



Joinery – “This week, the Joiners will continue their projects. Amanda will be applying finish to her dumbwaiter, while Peter tries to find material for the face-frame and door of his hanging cupboard. Scott will work to cope and fit the tenons on his walnut door.”

Silversmith – “Bobbie continues fitting and soldering pieces of her spice casters, the first of which is nearly completely assembled, and she will be piercing the shaker pattern soon. She has also started raising the lid for a tankard and working on trade silver. Lynn has continued working with the John White plate and prints, and has started a second plate this week. Chris has started to work on parts for her teapot. George and Preston are working on components of the tankard. Parker and William are both polishing hollowware (a beaker cup and Gurney bowl, respectively.)”



Bobbie's casters and trade silver in production