

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

June 10, 2022

There are a lot of changes happening in Historic Trades and Skills that begin on Sunday, June 12th. It is the start of the Summer programming schedule. Many of the Shops will have different schedules. We will also be upstaffing at the end of the week for the beginning of the Juneteenth Weekend. Please check the schedule listed after each Trade Shop carefully!

Also, our Summer Workshops begin on Sunday!! One will be held each day at 10:00am. All are one-hour long, and the Shops will open to the public at 11:30am. There will be both Family and Beginner Workshops. The schedule is:

Sundays – Bookbinder: "How to Make a Stitched Book and Decorative Paste Paper." Bookbinders will show different types of books and book sections. Each participant will make a booklet to keep and make a paste sheet for later pickup. Total number of children capped at 4, with at least 1 parent present per family group. Limit of 6 participants. Minimum age is 7. Family Workshop - \$20.

Monday – Shoemaker: "A Shoemaking Primer: An Introduction to the Gentle Craft." Participants will be introduced to shoemaking and learn what you need to run a successful shop. Alongside the Shoemakers, learn how to measure with a paper tape and apply those measurements to a last. If time allows, participants will split wooden pegs with the assistance of shop staff. We will go over the basics of shoemaking (the four step division of labor), measuring, fitting, and picking out the right materials for making the shoe. This basic overview of the second biggest shop trade in Williamsburg will allow you to compare the 18th-century shoe shopping experience to your own experiences today. Limit of 10 participants at the Armoury. Family Workshop - \$20.

Tuesday – Apothecary: "Apothecary: Make according to Art." Discover 18th-century insights into the practice of pharmacy and pharmacy education. Test your skills in identifying materials that were used to make medicines, some of which are still in use today. Use a formula from a period pharmacy text to compound a medicine. The workshop also explores some aspects of the history of surgery such as wound care, discuss period directions for making bandages, and practice applying them. Limit of 8 participants. Minimum age is 16. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Beginner Workshop - \$60.

Wednesday – Fifes & Drums: "Play the Fife and Beat the Drum". Eighteenth-century field musicians were vital for communicating orders both on the battlefield and in camp. For this in-depth experience, guests will be able to join an adult staff member at the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums building and learn fundamentals of fifing and/or drumming, as if they were recruits. They will have the opportunity to practice with a fife and/or drumsticks to perform basic exercises. Limit of 10 participants. Minimum age is 7. Family Workshop - \$20.

Thursday – Silversmith: "Make a Bracelet." Make a copper bracelet with the Silversmiths. Each group will first get turns drawing copper wire on the draw bench. Staff will cut wire to the appropriate length and file. Participants can mallet a bracelet from the wire, with help from staff. They will be given polishing paper to shine up the bracelet. Limit of 12 participants. Minimum age is 7. Family Workshop - \$20.

Friday – Printer: "The Types and the Press: An Introduction to Typesetting and Basic Press Use." Join the Printers to learn the basics of printing. Participants will set letters at the UPPER and lower cases of type. At the letterpress, they will learn to use ink balls in printing as they print an item for themselves to take home. Limit of 12 participants. Minimum age is 7. Family Workshop - \$20.

Saturday – Foundry: "An Apprentice Founder's Workday". Find out some of the daily routine of an apprentice at the Geddy Foundry by completing from start to finish a pewter spoon to take home. No minimum age requirement. Limit of 10 participants. Beginner Workshop - \$60.

Apothecary – This week at the Apothecary, Mark made a new medicine, a Cooling Julep. A julep is an agreeable beverage. The cooling julep contains orange juice, rose water, Rhenish wine, and syrup of violets. It was used to treat the heat and thirst of fever.

We also want to congratulate Margaret on the completion of level one of her apprenticeship. Her final project was a report on Henry St. George Tucker and his experience with smallpox. Sharon is finishing an index for the Galt-Barraud daybook from December 1782 through September 1783.



The Apothecary Shop will be open Tuesday (11:30-5:00), Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Armoury:

Blacksmith – As the heat rises, the Mechanick advises that the smiths have been wondrous this week. The hammers do fly before the Master's eye, including one of his own making. It serves an example, its quality ample, for young Josh to forge for himself. Mark has been busy, sometimes getting dizzy, turning
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swords and locks out at forge and bench. With dividers now bright, tucked in his pocket tight, Alex has returned to spits and skewers. Fueled by morning brew, and with Broadus, too, Wheelwright hardware was made and repaired. Those two cheeky lads, the forging comrades, have jointly made tools for the anvil. Owen's cares, one might say, are further away, but he's still worked out a few flesh forks. Last of all, little Josh the iron did squash, and he's all around made quite a clamor. His hinges are done, and so he's looking for fun forging out compasses and a hammer. In city or dell, it's easy to tell that all's well that falls well at the foot of the anvil.

The Blacksmith Shop will be open Daily.

Tinsmith – This week in the Tin Shop, we successfully finished our last cellar stick workshop (which was sold out). Jenny has been working on constructing various styles of boxes and researching college records for references of tinware. Joel has been making cups for Prentis and researching The Public Armoury through records of the Richmond Public Store. Steve has been working from his home shop all week and will return to the Armoury Shop next week.

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

Anthony Hay Shop:

Cabinetmaker – This week in the Cabinet Shop, John and Jeremy finally have the desk and bookcase standing on its own four feet. With the bookcase sitting on the desk, the project feels much nearer to completion. Visitors are now able to get a much clearer picture of what the last several months' labor has produced. Jeremy is now in the process of assembling the fall front, and he will soon have to explore how to apply the leather writing surface on the inside. It has been a long time since a leather writing surface has been made in the Shop, so a bit more research on the matter is in Jeremy's future.

This week, Bill also regained about three feet of his workbench as we bid farewell to the mahogany tea table which has been occupying the space. We have enjoyed having it in the Shop, but we are also happy to see it travel to its new home. We're sure it will be well looked after and appreciated for generations to come. Here is one final glamour shot of the tea table before it left us.



The Cabinetmaker and Harpsichord-maker are open Daily.

Brickmaker – This week in the Brickyard saw the conclusion of our second week in full production! With a healthy 1,800 bricks in the drying shed (AKA sawhouse) and quite a bit more on the drying bed, we're well on our way to reaching a good place. Further, all of our Summer Casuals are settling in well and taking to the task at hand with a healthy amount of enthusiasm.



The Brickyard will be open Sunday through Wednesday, and Saturday, weather permitting.

Carpenter – This week, we have been making rafter pairs for the Brickyard's drying house. We still have a few to fit together. Once the last few rafter pairs are fit, nailed, and pegged together, we will move on to the last stage of the frame work. We still need to cut the joints and fit gable end studs. However, that is the last stage of the frame that needs to be completed before raising.



The Carpenter's Yard will be open Tuesday through Saturday, weather permitting.

Colonial Garden – It has been a warm and dry week in the Historic Garden, which means lots of hauling water. On a hot day, we can empty one or more of our 200-gallon cisterns. Watering in dry weather is a grueling chore, but it does give us a chance to clean all the muck out of the bottom of the cisterns before refilling. This week, we harvested our hardneck garlic, and it is now hanging to dry from the rafters of our tent. We will save the nicest garlic bulbs to replant this fall. The Gardeners also started seeds for several different flowers that we will plant out in the fall and practiced taking cuttings of different shrubs and vines around the Garden to root in pots. We also transplanted our tomato plants into the Garden and built a trellis to support them as they spread and set fruit. Exciting blooms in the Garden this week: prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp.), Stokes' aster (*Stokesia laevis*), elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), day lily (*Hemerocallis fulva*), and oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*).



Historic Garden Intern Kira cleans the cistern



Garlic harvested at the Historic Garden before hanging to dry



The flower of the prickly pear cactus

The Colonial Garden will be open Daily, weather permitting.

Cooper – The Cooper Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Engraver – This week at the Engraving Shop: William has been away taking the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association’s Gun engraving class being taught by Master Gunsmith George Suiter. We are excited to see what he has learned next week when he returns. This week, we welcome Erica, our shared Summer Intern. She previously has interned with us over the last couple of months with NIAHD. She is a recent Grad from William and Mary. She has jumped right in on her work that she started several weeks ago and has picked up nicely in her engraving practice. She is currently working on a grape leaf design from a Maria Sybillia Merriam engraving. Erica and Danni will be starting their training with the Foundry this coming week. They will be cross training to gain a good understanding of the Foundry’s metals and how they are produced, interpretation, getting introduced to finishing skills, and at some point assisting in at least one pour before the summer is over. Danni has been doing very well in gaining an understanding of the basic engraving cuts and gaining tool control. We have been in discussion most days on 18th-century drawing and engraving styles. How the shading differs between the two and how to best approach it from the engravers point of view. The Artist talk is getting very interesting in here! I have been working on a silver bowl for a custom order, engraving two pewter (Foundry made) ladle handles, and working on a few other custom orders while working with each of the Interns. All in all a very good week!





The Engraving Shop will be open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Foodways – The Foodways Staff will be at the Palace Kitchen Sunday through Wednesday, and Saturday.

Foundry – The Foundry will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday (11:30-5:00).

Gunsmith – The Gunsmith Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Historic Farming – Prentis Field will be open Tuesday through Saturday, weather permitting.

Joinery – The Joinery will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Milliner and Mantua-maker – Work continues on preparations for “Gown in a Day”. Our first gown has had its second fitting, and the finished fronts are now attached to the back. The third fitting will happen tomorrow, when we'll attach the shoulder straps and sleeves, and it will finally begin to look like a gown. Endless yards of trim also continue to be hemmed...and hemmed...and hemmed...so that as soon as the third fitting is done, the trim will be ready to be pleated and attached.

We've also begun the second gown for the program, which takes the fabric from the 1774 sack style of the first version to an Italian style for 1784. We plan to have both gowns complete and ready to be taken apart so that they can be upcycled and updated to new styles on the day of the program.

On Thursday, we hosted our final Workshop of the spring season. Eight more participants went out into the world with sewing rolls ready to be completed and put to use! Janaea was able to capture a couple of pictures of everyone hard at work. All in all, we think our first two workshop ventures have proven quite successful. Several participants have sent thank-you notes and emails, and others have promised to send photos of their finished pieces. Many have expressed interest in returning for new adventures in sewing, so we're already conjuring up new ideas for the future.



In research news, Rachel continues exploring the households of enslavers who sent children to the Bray School; she is also combing through the correspondence of Robert Carter Nicholas for references to his connections with the School. Rebecca remains buried in CDC archives and institutional costume history. Kate has begun wading through the Resident Files of those Williamsburgians associated with Margaret Hunter. Janea collated tidbits as Kate found them and has begun creating a web of connections between all of the milliners in town in the 1760s and 1770s.

And because we forgot last week...here's a picture to officially welcome Rachel as our Summer Intern!



The Shop will be open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Music – Greetings from The Governor’s Musick! We are headed full steam into the summer season, kicking off two new concert series next week, with a Hennage program sandwiched between them!

On Thursday, June 16th, at 7:00pm, we begin our outdoor Palace Stage concert series focusing on the Pleasure Gardens of London, the forerunner of today’s amusement parks. Music was the main event at these pleasure gardens, open to all for the price of a shilling (or two). We hope you can join us for an Eighteenth-century open-air experience of music under the stars.

The next day, on Friday, June 17th, at 4:30pm, in the Hennage auditorium, Amy Miller will give her lecture/concert presentation of “The Bird Fanciers Delight,” a look at Baroque music’s enthusiasm for all things avian. Whether the music actually imitates bird calls and hen scratchings, or whether it sends up paeans to our feathered friends, it doesn’t fail to please.

And to round off the week, on Saturday, June 18th, at 7:00pm, we move to the Capitol for our first Summer concert series, on the Lanier family of musicians and Virginians (and yes, related to our viol player, Brady Lanier). Nicholas Lanier and his relatives were a celebrated circle of composers and performers, and we are happy to be able to present their wonderful music. It’s also a fascinating look at early American emigration and its legacy.

Rehearsals are starting for our Hennage presentation on July 1st and 3rd, on what poet Phillis Wheatley called the “strange Absurdity” -- that the freedom and equality the white gentry was fighting for did not apply to the enslaved. We will explore this paradox through the popular liberty music of the age and the poetry of enslaved servant Phillis Wheatley, one of America’s first, and best, poets.

Kyle is continuing his research and program development of the music of Ann Barraud, a resident of Williamsburg in the late 18th century and a talented amateur musician. She collected music and played the organized piano. We are fortunate to have at our disposal portraits of Mrs. Barraud and an example of her instrument, the organized piano, right here in the Art Museums, and William and Mary have numerous letters and papers of the family. The Barraud House stands at the corner of Botetourt and Francis Streets.



Portrait of Ann Barraud, Colonial Williamsburg Art Museums



Organized piano, Colonial Williamsburg Art Museums

Printer and Bookbinder:

Printing Office – The Printing Office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday (11:30-5:00), and Saturday.

Bindery – The Bookbindery will be open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Public Leather Works – The Public Leather Works will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Shoemaker – The Shoemakers will be at the Armoury on Sunday, Monday (11:00-5:00), Thursday, and Saturday.

Silversmith – Busy, busy, busy is the order of the day at the Silversmith Shop. Megan continues to polish the coffin plates and spoons; she is also piercing some bottle tickets for the store and is reading *Women Silversmiths 1685-1845*. Chris is working on mourning rings and making the rim to a tray that will match Bobbie's. Bobbie continues to work diligently on her tray; it is shaping up very quickly! Preston is raising his army of extremely popular small bowls and is cutting in the decorative rims. George continues his work on forging out the long ingot for spoon blanks. We have also gained a summer intern, Tam. She is enthusiastically learning saw piercing and is currently practicing in copper. Once she is comfortable in copper, she will then move on to the more expensive, but easier to work, silver.



Bobbie's Tray



Tam's first batch of copper piercing

The Silversmith Shop will be open Sunday through Wednesday, Thursday (11:30-5:00) and Saturday.

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

Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing – We recently finished our last Workshop for the season and will be using the remainder of the towel warps to experiment with different twill patterns; photos and more information will be coming up in a future edition, so be sure to keep your eye out for it!

Pamela's log cabin check and Joe's tartan are marching along swimmingly, and our preparation is already starting for dye day on June 25th. Annie has been turning their attention to research. Something that caught their eye most recently came from Thomas Jefferson's farm book, in which he estimates how much of different materials can be spun in a set amount of time. He gives an average workday during a 12-hour workday, 20 oz of linen, or 16 oz of wool, or 8 oz of cotton could be spun. That averages 1.66 oz of linen, 1.33 oz of wool, and .66 oz of cotton per hour. These numbers, including hours worked, would vary throughout the year as the amount of daylight changed. While our Shop has reached similar numbers while spinning wool over the winter, the amounts for cotton and linen definitely have them curious to experiment further.

The Weaving Shop will be open on Tuesday through Saturday.

Wheelwright – Some new projects at the Deane Shop are on the horizon. Master Wheelwright Paul has placed the plow project on hold for the time being. After cross referencing James Smalls' plow treatise with Mount Vernon documentation regarding Washington's plows, it appears that some facets of its design are going to be a bit different in construction. Apprentice Joel is wrapping up his second hub for the handcart project with the assistance of fellow Apprentice Murphy and Paul. He will be morticing both hubs for spoke installation in the coming weeks, as well as repairing a wheelbarrow for the Brickyard. Speaking of wheelbarrows, Murphy is wrapping up a barrow repair for the Carpenter's Yard. A broken joint in the barrow handle is causing its leg to buckle. Using a wooden brace, metal braces, and a rivet, Murphy will give the barrow a fighting chance. He will also begin cutting joints for the horse cart project in the coming weeks. The Wheelwrights will be working as a Shop on putting some final touches to the horse cart behind the Deane before its out in service. The straight rails that sit atop the siding of the body will be swapped in favor of

sloped pieces. Using a piece of oak with a slight curve, Joel used a frame saw to split the oak to get two even pieces. A warm week to be sure, but a productive one.



The Wheelwright Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Wigmaker – Greetings from the Wigmakers! This past week, work continued on Edith's and Benton's projects. Edith is nearing completion of her hand knotted silk base for Mr. Jefferson's wig and may have it done by the end of the coming week. Benton has finished his outline tape and is in the process of nailing down his mesh fabric. Once that is in place, he will begin the seemingly never-ending process of buttonhole stitching the fabric to his outline, both outside and inside the tape. Debbie continues to work on the demo base for shop display, as well. Maintenance continues and has picked up due to the ever-rising temperatures. We would like to remind our wig wearing colleagues to bring their wigs back more often than you might even think necessary, so we can stay on top of the problem of rusty pins and odiferous bases. As always, please feel free to reach out for any tonsorial needs that may arise.

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.

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