



THE  
MECHANICK'S  
ADVISOR

*10/20/2023*

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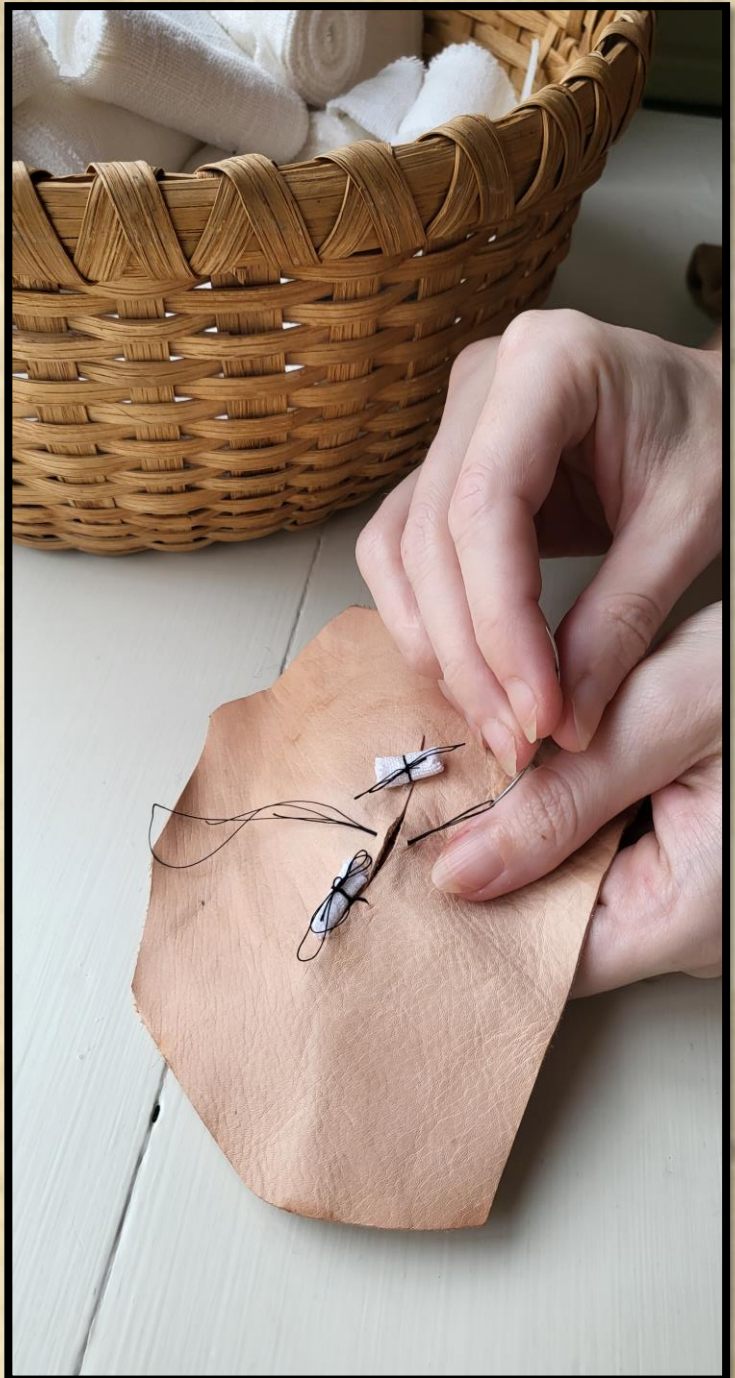
# Apothecary

*The Apothecary is open Sunday through Thursday*

We welcomed Sharon back from vacation this week to great fanfare - she arrives victoriously from the Midwest having secured the best kielbasa and aged gouda.

Meanwhile, Stephanie has been busy reading and compounding, making some lovely-smelling aromatics: an aromatic powder, a tincture of cardamom, and an infusion of cinnamon, all producing warming effects on the constitution. Margaret is currently typing this from the Public Hospital 250th commemorative programming weekend while transcribing some Civil War medical documents for the Archaeology department.

- Margaret Perry



*We also assisted our fellow sewing trades for National Sewing Week with a recreation interrupted suture on leather.*

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# Blacksmith

*The Blacksmith is open every day*

This week in the shop we have continued working on our hardware for the Bray School such as the shutter dogs and HL hinges. Josh has also made headway on the grease drip tray for a peculiar grid iron design.



*Sections of a gridiron, while in progress.*



Mark has continued working on the sign bracket project and Aislinn on fireplace tongs. We have welcomed the cooler weather and many guests this fall!

*- Joshua Rachita*

*Decorative elements forged by Mark ready to be fit up.*

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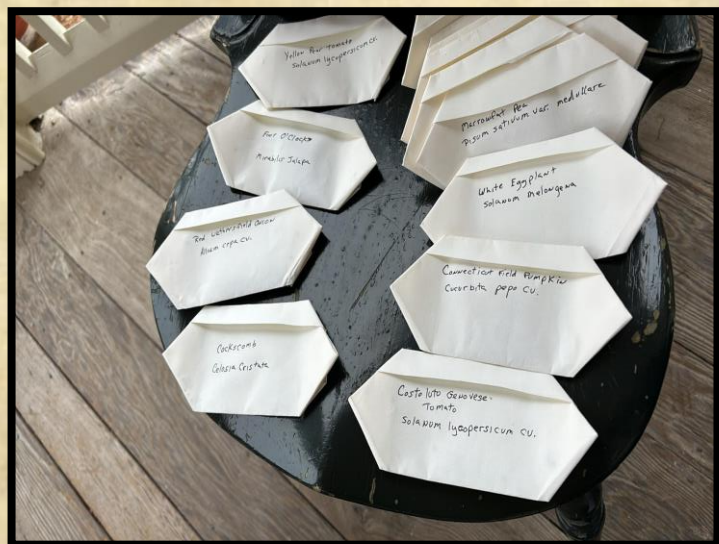
# Bookbinder

*The Bookbinder is open Tuesday through Sunday*

Mr. Doug Cohen volunteers his time between the Tucker House at Colonial Williamsburg, and Gunston Hall, where he portrays George Mason. A longtime patron of the Bookbindery, he recently reached out to ask if we had any scrap paper for a special project. Doug wanted to recreate seed packets that he read about in *Trend and Tradition* Winter 2020 issue, that he could use at the Grand Opening of Mason's garden at Gunston Hall.



*CW Volunteer Doug Cohen as George Mason, at the grand opening of his garden at Gunston Hall.*



*Seed packets made from scrap paper, courtesy of the Bookbindery.*

Modeled after packets created by William Hamilton and William Bartram of Philadelphia and used by the Colonial Williamsburg Gardeners, we were happy to assist. Fun Fact: William Bartram created what is known as Bartram's Garden—a place that you can still visit today! Happy seed saving, Doug!

*- Barbara Swanson*

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# Cabinetmaker

*The Cabinetmaker is open Sunday, Monday, and Thursday through Saturday*

John continues full-steam ahead on his walnut cellaret as he wraps up work on its two drawers. Now that he's got them dovetailed together, he will shift his attention to making their bottoms. Bill has settled on a design for the chair he'll build for the Working Wood in the 18th Century conference in January. Bill's chair is a variation on a design published by Thomas Chippendale (1754) that leans into the Gothic revival tendencies of English rococo fashion. Next, he'll swap his pencil for chisels, planes, and saws to knock together a prototype.

*- Francis Pavlak*



*John's cellaret with its freshly dovetailed drawers in place*



*Bill's chair design based on an original by Thomas Chippendale*

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# Cooper

*The Cooper is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday*

Over the last two weeks, we've been working on something new to us in the Coopers Shop. In response to a request from the Tinsmiths, we've made some staved canteens. We think they turned out pretty well.



*Coopered canteens made of Atlantic white cedar.*

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# Engravers

*The Engravers are open Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday through Saturday*

Engravers William and Lynn have been working steady on the Brafferton gorgets. Emma has been working on apprenticeship drawings and completing a printing plate based on artwork from the 1600's of Dodo birds! We have also been preparing for our maintenace shutdown coming up next week.

*- Carol Zelesnikar*



*Emma's plate and water colored print of Dodos*



*Wheelwrights print and original artwork done for the Wheelwrights trip gifts*

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# Farmers

*The Farmers are open Tuesday, and Thursday through Saturday*



Farming is part of the Campaign for Colonial Williamsburg, and the new Ewing Field is completely funded by donations. The Farmers are deeply grateful for this opportunity. See above Director of Coach and Livestock- Undra Jeter and Farmer Ed Schultz giving a message for a promotional piece for the Campaign.

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# Fife & Drum



Fife and Drum has a busy end of the month planned as we continue our regular programming, perform at James River Elementary's Fall Festival and participate in William and Mary's homecoming parade. Our new recruits are all settling in nicely and our remaining recruits from last year are working hard to start marching in time for Grand Illumination(s). Lastly, congratulations to Fifer Morgan Shimp and Private Orrin Chapman for advancing in rank!

- Rebecca Sterner

*A young guest enjoying the Sr. Corps' march down DoG St.*

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# Founder

*The Founder is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, but will be closed 10/17 through 10/27*

Over the last two weeks, the Founders have been keeping busy. Journeyman Mike has continued working on some brass bobeches. Apprentices Drew and Leanne attended the trades event for the Raleigh Tavern Society and worked on some practice blowpipe soldering. The last couple days we've been shut down for maintenance but work hasn't stopped. Along with various research, the apprentices have been reorganizing patterns in our attic storage and the whole shop (plus Engraving Apprentices Will and Emma) headed over to collections to check out some original pieces with Eric Goldstein.

*- Leanne Bellouny*



*Foundry work we wanted to showcase.*

*Original molds for pewterware.*

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# Gardener

*The Gardeners are open every day.*

The look appearance of the garden has begun to change indicating the end of the summer season and the coming of short days and colder temperatures. Vegetables grown for this colder season are hardy greens such as kale, collard, cabbage, garlic and, spinach. For a little beauty, Calendula, Snapdragons, Wallflower and Viola are all the color that will be seen in the dreary winter days. Vegetables of a more luxurious nature such as Broccoli and Cauliflower will require coverage on extremely cold nights with fabric stretched over wooden hoops. Lettuce and parsley can be had if you had the wealth to afford bell jars or hand lights.



*- Eve Otmar*

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# Gunsmith

*The Gunsmith is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday*

This week in the Gunsmiths, Brad has been finishing a tomahawk and haft with some polishing and engraving left to do on it. Brad is now practicing engraving before cutting it in the tomahawk bit. Darrin, with the help of Richard and Brad, has been reaming the pistol barrels and now is on the finish reaming bit which will polish the bore to final size. Richard has started on a new single pistol for another customer. Richard started on smithing the lock plate on Wednesday.

*- Darrin McDonal*



*The rough reamed bore.*



*Brads tomahawk.*

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# Harpsichord Maker

*The Harpsichord Maker is open Sunday, Monday, and Thursday through Saturday*

Greetings from the harpsichord corner... Melanie is deep into the making of a beautiful new soundboard for the spinet, a lot of planing, lots of shavings. It will ultimately finish at about 3/32

inch thick (or thin!). Soon she will make ribs and a cherry bridge for it, which will bring it into final shape. This will be a big part of the spinet's tonal character.

Ed has been installing little brass staples into the jacks. These will limit the pivot movement of the tongues to just the amount required for their action.



*New Soundboard in Progress by Melanie.*

If that movement remains too loose, the mechanism will not repeat quick enough for fast playing. This design, we discovered, allows fine adjustment of that movement, simply by bending the staple further in or out.

We are in the subtle work for this instrument... the stuff maker like to keep hidden so it all appears magical and mysterious. But for us, please visit and see how we do all this work. Cheers.

*- Edward Wright*



*Staples for Jack Mechanism installed by Ed*

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# Historic Masonry

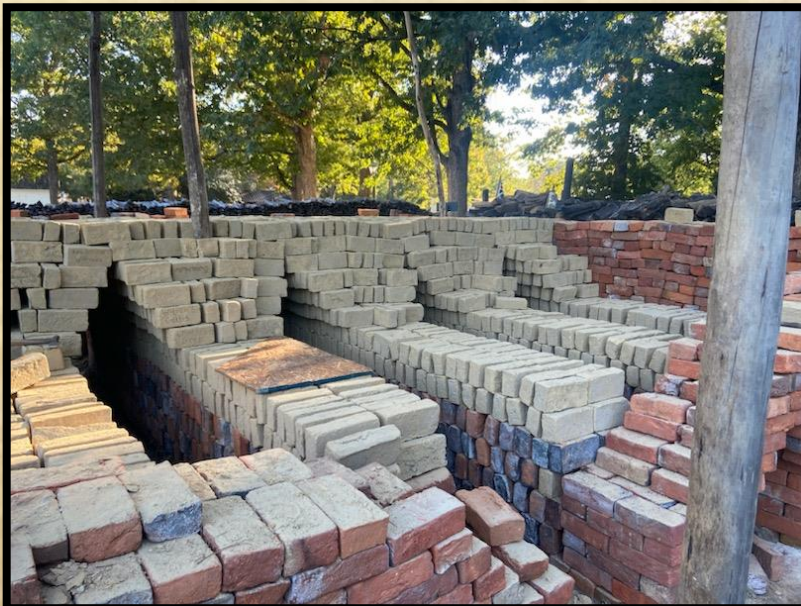
*The Brickyard is open Sunday, and Wednesday through Saturday*

This week the Brickyard crew continues on as we come up on two weeks since our pal Nick 'The Notch' White left to grow beyond the Brickyard. In the great Brickyard of life you never truly leave, especially if you leave a clay hand print on the saw house.

Work on the kiln stacking continues as the once small stack gets higher and higher. Unstacking brick to restack them is tiring work surprisingly.

We're approaching the half way point of the kiln structure with the vaults, or tunnels, of the base of the kiln reaching completion.

*- Madeleine Bolton*



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# Joiner

*The Joiner is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday*

With all of the cherry boxes for donors finished and delivered, the joiners are now turning their attentions to January's Working With Wood in the Eighteenth-Century conference and upcoming Bray School projects. We've been spending some time with our fantastic curators and conservationists, studying extant pieces in our museum collection that can serve as examples of the furniture we will be making for the school. So far, we have inspected a blanket chest, a turned leg table, a bench, and a few chairs. Our thanks and appreciation to Tara Chicirda and Chris Swan for their time and expertise.

*- Laura Hollowood*



*Brian Weldy, Master Joiner, and Tara Chicirda, curator of furniture, examine the bottom and legs of a blanket chest (1969-279).*



*The completed boxes, ready for presentation to the donors.*

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# Leather Breech Makers

*The Leather Breech Makers are open Tuesday through Saturday*

Things are fairly steady here in the shop. Apprentice Wilson is working on the finer points of sewing and apprentice Emma is starting her final project of her curriculum. We are also working our way through the first wave of breeches turned in for inventory and maintenance. It is amazing to see the different wear and longevity each pair has.



*Inventory and maintenance underway.*

Our oldest pairs in circulation were made during the summer of 2015 and still going strong!

*- Sarah Cross*



*Detail of a pair of breeches being made.*

*For Staff:*

*Please remember to drop off issued leather breeches if you have not already done so starting Oct 17th.*

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# Military Programs

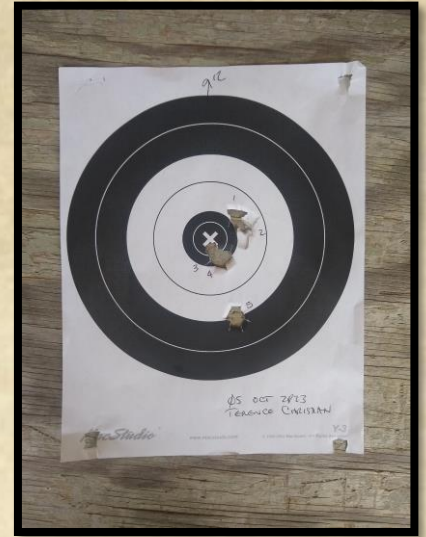
*Military Programs and interpretation are given at the Guardhouse daily*

The past two weeks have largely focused on training and continued quarterly maintenance. Military Program Staff continue work deep cleaning the muskets and bringing them back to a high shine both as a preventative maintenance action and in preparation for the coming holiday season.

Terence attended the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association Instructor Training Course in Fayetteville, NC. This training will enable Terence to meet both CW occupational requirements and assist, as required, at the Musket Range.

Alex is currently on travel to Independence Seaport Museum and Fort Mifflin in Philadelphia, PA. He is connecting with Curators and Archivists in preparation for a Spring 2024 speaking series; Alex will access unpublished primary sources related to the Delaware Campaign and identify future collaborative opportunities involving Virginia Regiments' early war experiences.

*- Terence Christian*



*"National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA) qualification target*



*Polished Short Land Pattern Lock.jpg -- "A Short Land Pattern Service Musket lock recently serviced and polished to bring it back into good working order."*

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# Milliner & Mantua-maker

*The Milliner and Mantua-maker is open Tuesday through Saturday,  
but closes at 12:00PM on 10/24 and 10/27*

Last week, we welcomed Millie to our team as a new JI. Millie is a local student who will be spending several afternoons a week with us as part of her high school's mentorship program, which allows students to explore a potential career path in their chosen field of study. To practice her stitching, she's focusing on a workbag and a sewing roll to store her tools. In between preparations for two workshops that we'll be teaching for next week's American Textile Conservation Conference, Janea has whipped up two new aprons for the Cooks for their upcoming Trades Tuesday filming on Friday. Rebecca continues preparations on her presentations for the Omohundro and the "I Made This..." conferences, with some shift-mending and stays-altering interspersed to keep her hands busy, too. Kate has moved on to the petticoat for the Lanah Sawyer project and, with the help of engraver Emma, is exploring block-printing options for Lanah's summer-weight shawl.

- Rebecca Godzik



*The finished apron from the front, with ties long enough to wrap fully around the body to tie in front.*



*A single buttonhole allows the peak of the apron's "bib" to fasten over a button on the waistcoat beneath.*

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# Musket Range

*The Musket Range is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday*

Doug has returned from NMLRA training and is one step closer to becoming an instructor at the Musket Range. He is now working on his Range Safety Officer certification. Hopefully we will be up to full staff by the start of November!

*- Jeffery Thomas*



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# Palace Kitchen

*The Palace Kitchen is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday  
Closed 10/20*

We've had a successful beginning to October over in the kitchen with two of our Fall programs making an appearance. Our Fall Intern, Aubry, got to try her hand at chocolate-making the first Monday of the month and she took to learning the complexities of chocolate with ease. We also had our second brew of the fall this past Sunday, where we worked on a Porter, the workhorse beer of the English during the 18th century. We also bottled and sampled the first brew of the season, the Old Mum. The flavors of ginger, hot pepper, and coriander shone through better than we had hoped for. A great way to celebrate the fall season!

*- Charlotte Shoaf*



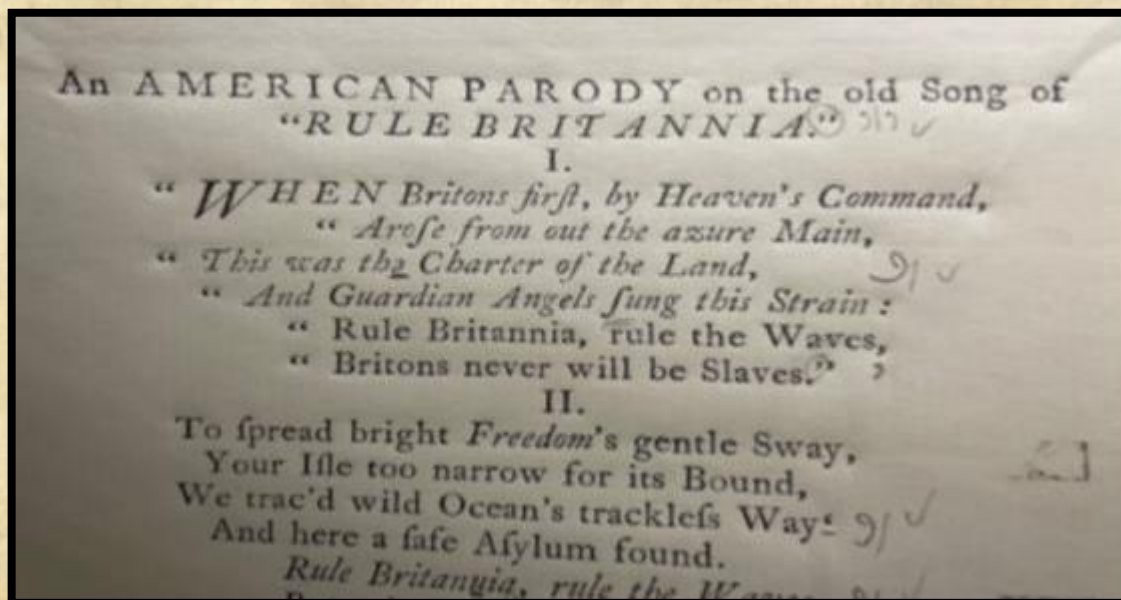
*Abbey, Dom, and Barbra in the throes of brewing.*

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# Printer

*The Printer is open Sunday, Monday, and  
Thursday through Saturday*



Cecilia Weaver has been correcting her song, and this coming Monday will be begin making ready the press for printing. Copies will likely be given to our guests as a keepsake for visiting The Printing Office. The rest of the staff has been continuing with printing The Virginia Gazette.

- Peter Stinely



# Shoemaker

*The Shoemaker is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday*

Nicole and Victoria made another trip to Archaeology to continue their calceology studies. The shop's video was released on Trades Tuesday, as well as another one in which Victoria talks about the baby shoes we made last Winter. Nicole is halfway done with a pair of pumps with overshoes for Mark Hutter, Val is fixing a pair of shoes for Dave Wilson, and Victoria is fixing a pair of half-boots for Ren Tolson.

*- Valentine Povinelli*



*Val with some recent repairs. Victoria at Archaeology.*

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# Silversmith

*The Silversmith is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday*

Megan is has been working on the blade for her fish trowel as well as her tray. Chris has been chasing the details into the bottom of her tray. Bobbie continues to work on the medallions and making tray rims. George has started his tray and is drawing wire for more tray rims.

*- Megan Cantwell*



*Megan's fish trowel*



*Bobbie's wire rim*

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# Wigmaker

*The Wigmakers are open Sunday through Thursday*



*Benton's silk hand knotted net on top of the outline tape.*

These rows cover the hard front of the wig and prevent it from being seen. In honor of Halloween, Edith's son modeled her journeyman project, a reproduction of a 17th C Scottish wig and mask worn by Alexander Peden.

*- Edith Broward Edds*

Benton has completed his hand knotted caul and is ready to start stitching to the outline tape, it took him approximately 38 hours to produce the silk netting. Our NIAD intern Elias is stitching on wefts of hair that he has woven and Edith is weaving the final two rows of hair for the wig.



*Edith's son, Sullivan wearing the repro mask (sheep's skin made by Master Howlett) and wig; the original is in the National Museum of Scotland.*

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# Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Apothecary**
  - *Sunday through Thursday*
- **Blacksmith**
  - *Everyday*
- **Carpenter**
  - *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*
- **Engravers**
  - *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday through Saturday*
- **Gardener**
  - *Everyday*
- **Gunsmiths**
  - *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday*
- **Harpsicord Maker**
  - *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*
- **Joiner**
  - *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday*
- **Leather Breech Makers**
  - *Tuesday through Saturday*
- **Military Programs**
  - *Daily*
- **Palace Kitchen**
  - *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*
- **Printer**
  - *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*
- **Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers**
  - *Sunday through Wednesday, Saturday*

**Editor.**  
*Matthew Siepinski*