



# THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

## for the week of December 20 - 26



**Apothecary** – Background research for a podcast for PPLV is in progress, as is the Winter Training class preparation.



### **Armoury:**

**Blacksmith** – They are making claw hammers and chisels for the Carpenters, and mattocks for a Great Hopes Agricultural program. The sign bracket for the Pitt Store is being complete, and cooking forks for Prentis Store are being forged. The apprentice is working on an iron rim lock and box iron as final projects.

**Tin Shop** – They are completing lanterns for lighting in the new Trades shops, and a lantern for the Museum of the American Revolution. They are also making funnels and soldier's tin cups.

**A Christmas Note** – Ken Schwarz pointed out that a lump of coal **IS** a gift to a Blacksmith, so they **HOPE** to find coal in their Christmas stockings!



**Artificer's Shop** – They are filling a variety of work orders from various Colonial Williamsburg departments. Please be advised that work requests must be submitted by email to [jhowlett@cwf.org](mailto:jhowlett@cwf.org) and copied to [smonaco@cwf.org](mailto:smonaco@cwf.org).



**Basketmaker** – They are making baskets for Prentis Store for Christmas sales.



**Bindery** – They continue to work on a music book and binding law books for the Capitol.



**Brickmaker** – The Brickyard is closed for the season. However, on days when the weather is favorable, they will open the Brickyard and work on dismantling the clamp. Just look for the flag.



**Cabinetmaker** – Work continues on two pedestal music stands, a decorated tea caddy, a wing chair, and a spinet.



**Candlemaker** – Work continues on creating job descriptions for Junior Interpreter and Volunteer positions, and on shop interpretation and training. Several people have expressed interest in the new program, and ideas for voluntary cross training and temporary duty assignments are being floated across departmental lines.

Joe Beatty provided documentary evidence of the career of Morto Brien in Williamsburg, including the location of his workshop. The evidence only raises more questions, such as whether Mr. Brien was a Patriot or some kind of Loyalist spy. More on that as the investigation proceeds....



**Carpenters** – They are building a shed and making shingles.



**Coopers** – Here is a picture of a current project Jon Hallman is working on for the Woodworking Symposium this January. This is a collaborative piece with the Cabinetmakers. The Cabinetmakers are making the stand as Jon is making the mahogany oval wine cooler. This is a replica of the original that is on display in the dining room at the Governor's Palace. You will also notice Jon had two little friends helping him.



**Foodways** – They will be working on some more decorative foods to represent the kinds of things found at a holiday ball.



### **Great Hopes Plantation** –

**Farming:** Cotton picking is over, and they have grubbed out all of the plants and plowed the ground. Given the warm weather, they decided to plant clover as a cover crop. Remarkably, it came up well, and they look forward to the nitrogen-building benefit of this plant. They are bringing in soil and compost to fill low spots in the fields. Woodworking projects continue including benches and a chicken brooder. They have sweated the tobacco and will tie the leaves into “hands” in the next two weeks.

**Domestic Arts:** Stef Dunn, Great Hopes’ Domestic Arts Specialist, cooked with chef Travis Brust for the Committee 100 composed of the top 100 CEOs in the country. She used a period recipe in contrast to modern versions of CW’s chefs. This and other initiatives are part of their link to the “Farm to Table” Movement that provides relevance to guests’ modern lives and experiences. After all, what Great Hopes does in farming and gardening is the original farm to table! They look forward to more collaborations with CW’s restaurants and taverns in the coming year. They are working hard to bring loads of compost and manure into both the Kitchen and Slave gardens in the coming weeks to enhance the soil and prepare the ground for early planting of greens and other vegetables in March.



**Gun Shop/Foundry** – The Gunsmiths continue stocking the rifle. The work on the cased pair of pistols continues. The Founders continue work on the pewter stuffing spoons and counterfeit coins.



**Historic Garden** – Winterizing has begun. They have begun to make hoops and structures to put canvas over the broccoli and the artichokes when it gets cold. They are also starting to think about the hotbeds and what might go in them when they start them the second week of January. Lots of tidying up and making sure the garden stays clean.



**Joiners** – Design work continues on the gazebo for the Woodworking Conference, and a new cutting bench for the Artificer’s Shop is underway.



**Millinery** – Here is a picture of the completed wedding gown that was made during the program “Dressing the Fashionable Bride: A Gown in Three Days”, held Dec 8th through the 10th.



**Printers** – The pressmen will finish the Beggar's Opera playbill, to be followed by blank Tobacco Crop notes and Transfer notes to be sold in the

Post Office.



**Silversmith** – They are working on various sorts of spoons (including mote spoons), salt shovels, Gurney Bowls and a fluted bowl, a pair of patty pans, a pair of raised beakers, trade silver jewelry, rings, and letter charms, a 12-inch Montieth (particularly, raising the body and the base), and ladles.

Please note that at any given time, not all of these items will be being worked on, but all will be available to be seen and discussed with anyone who is interested.



**Tailors** – As is the tradition of the trade, they are taking a Christmas Holiday. Otherwise, when here, they will be sewing on breeches.



**Wheelwright** – They continue to repair the ox cart. Two new Apprentices began work at the shop on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Victoria Tolson – She formerly worked in the Brickyard and was an intern at Great Hopes. She has degrees in Biology and Anthropology from the University of Ohio. She enjoys weaving as a hobby.

Aaron Walker – He formerly worked on the Washington Tent project. He has a degree in History from St. Mary's College in Maryland. He is an avid rock climber.

Welcome to them both!!



**Wigmaker** – Debbie is still working on her reproduction of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century bob wig that she had studied while she was in Germany. It has a hand-knotted base, (which is pretty impressive - only a handful of the wigs that are currently in circulation or on display have this particular base.) She currently has the base covered and is working on weaving the hair to then be sewn on to the base, row by row. Pictures are below:



Terry is still working on a handmade wig to be worn by Richard Schumann (Patrick Henry). She has completed the base and the outlining. This week and next week, she will be working on weaving the hair and sewing the wefts to the base. Betty will be creating a “half wig” for Katherine Pittman, who will be portraying a “young Martha Washington.”

All Wig Shop Staff will be working on taking care of the (elevated) traffic flow of production and street wigs. With the Holiday programs running, and all of the Fall programs closing and associated wigs being returned, they are pretty busy at the back up shop. Their big production- at the moment- is the “Harlequin’s Holiday” that will start this week! Tom Hammond and Jessica have drawn up sketches for the characters wigs, so that the Wigmakers would have designs to work from.



Here are their “Styles of the Week” for you!

the windshaft, and greasing moving parts will also be done.



**Windmill** – Steve is working on hand railings for the ladder. General maintenance including cleaning, tarring the exterior parts of



We wish everyone a very Merry  
Christmas!!