

# *“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”*

## *For May 12 - 18*

**Apothecary** – “The picture features some hands-on history. Two cousins, one that has had knee issues and one that needs knee surgery, compared knee braces. For those of you that don’t recognize the reproduction brace, it was made by the Shoemakers years ago. The documentation is Benjamin Bells’ text on surgery from London in 1780.



“Behind the counter left to right is Robin and our guest pharmacy student, Chenoa, from Campbell University. To date, she has made several reproduction medicines, including oil of chamomile. Chamomile was used in the 18th-century for a variety of conditions, including childbirth and tumors. Chenoa found a review of some contemporary studies on the use of chamomile. One study was on the use of this product for pain during childbirth. Another study focused on treating tumors.”

### **Armoury:**

**Blacksmith** – “The Shop has begun forging parts of a weathervane for the DeWitt Wallace Museum expansion. We have also been forging and finishing hails of bails for buckets, monsoons of spoons, flocks of locks, briars of pliers, and hasps, door handles, rakes, and vehicle hardware.

“The usual sounds of japes and curses at the Anderson Blacksmith Shop have been replaced with wails and gnashing of teeth, as Jessie Reid will be leaving on Monday after three years as an Apprentice. He has been a bedrock of the Shop, and we will miss him dearly but wish him the best and hope to see him around town, as he plans to remain in the area.

We bid Reid “Godspeed”  
With mill scale confetti.  
Five hammers still clamor,  
And the filing is steady.  
There’s queries from dearies, like  
“Is this iron ore?”  
And all’s well that falls well  
On the Anderson floor.”

**Tin Shop** – “Tin men are said to have no hearts, but that is not the case. They too are anguished by Apprentice Reid’s departure. However, they shine on in typical fashion with punched lanterns, alongside coffee pots, tea canisters, and watering cans ready to slake the thirst of townsfolk and Garden plant alike.”

**Brickmaker** – “The big news down in the Brickyard is that the 2019 season has officially begun. We’ve got clay in the pits, a spring in our step, and pollen in our lungs. Feel free to point guests to the Yard and encourage them to tread clay!”

**Colonial Garden** – “The Gardeners continue to turn the soil, set out plants, and sow seeds. Turning the ground where the rye was harvested was the most challenging, as there was a lot of organic matter that required a double turn with the spade. This week, we planted corn, skirret, celery, celeriac, watermelon, and numerous cantaloupe and muskmelons. Flowers are being planted to grace the corners of beds to give a little beauty to the green of the Garden. We put away the windows from hotbeds and cold frame and cleaned up all of the straw, which created a new compost pile in the back work yard. Lettuce went to the Inn, as well as the flowering tops of leeks, which will be pickled. The willow hedge has come alive, and we are shearing every other week, if not more. Our rye is drying nicely in the back on the pathway; and to keep it dry, we turn it daily. Next week, it may be dry enough to tie up in bundles. Lima beans are up as well as summer squash and cucumber. It’s time to pick peas and the last of the winter carrots.”

**Joinery** – “The Joinery is doubling down on those brick-molds! The first mold is a new size, while the second will be a much needed #3 mold. Amanda has generously tackled the assembly. In addition, a great abundance of black walnut has appeared in the Shop, ready to be turned into parts for Peter’s hanging cupboard. Scott is still coping all of the joints in his door which, while a difficult process, has not dampened his spirits one bit!”

**Silversmith** – “Bobbie has been working to fit the two halves of the spice caster together, as well as drawing the patterns on a pair of mote spoons to cut next week. She also continues raising the tankard lid. Lynn is making significant progress on the John White canoe print and has started to watercolor the weroan prints. Chris is making the templates for components of her teapot. George and Preston are working on components of the tankard, while George is also still working his way through chasing tools, and Preston is working through several small silver bowls. Parker is nearly finished with his beaker and is raising a tumbler. William is nearly finished with his Gurney bowl and has started cutting components for two small seamed drams.”



The tankard begins to take shape

**Wigmaker** – “Hello from the Wigmakers, who are happy to have time to breathe again! Since our last update, the Garden Party has come and gone. We ended up styling 30 wigs for the event, outfitting everyone from footmen to dancers to VIPs. These wigs are slowly returning to the Shop to be washed following their debut, which thankfully doesn't come with the same deadline that styling does!

In other news, the Bromfield wig has also been completed! While Betty is still putting the finishing touches on the style, all of the construction work was finished at the end of April, and it will soon be delivered to the Massachusetts Historical Society for their use.

“This past week, we said goodbye to our two Interns this semester, Ellen and Sabrina. Both helped with interpretation, learned how to weave, and had the opportunity to make a hairpiece of their own. We wish them both the best of luck, particularly Ellen, who is a graduating Senior off to the next phase of her life.”