

# *THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER*

## *July 28, 2023*

*Apothecary* – The Apothecary Staff are saying goodbye to our pharmacy student intern, Joy. She has been working with us for four weeks and is now moving on to another rotation to complete her pharmacy degree. She has been a joy to work with, and we wish her well on her future endeavors. Margaret is gearing up for a video on the public hospital, and Stephannie has been diligently reading the required material for her first level apprenticeship. Sharon continues work on the Galt-Barraud Daybooks. She has made an interesting correlation to vermifuge (de-worming) medicines and seasons. It appears that these medicines are administered more frequently in late summer and early fall than any other time of the year. As you harvest your vegetables, don't forget to wash them before eating them.

The Apothecary is open Wednesday- Saturday.

*Blacksmith* – The Blacksmith is open Sunday through Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday.

*Bookbinder* – The Bookbinder is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

*Cabinetmaker* – The cabinetmakers have been doing many mortises lately. Two of our volunteers, Sarah and Chris, are practicing their technique in preparation for doing a small frame and panel and have spent much time learning the ins and outs of this procedure of cutting a rectangular slot in the wood. John has been mortising as well, working on the legs to his next project, a Tidewater cellaret. Bill has been applying the first coats of finish to his writing table, but more on that to come.



The Cabinetmaker is open Sunday (11:30-5:00), Monday, and Thursday through Saturday.

**Carpenter** – The Carpenters are working at Ewing Field Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, weather permitting.

**Cook** – The Palace Kitchen is open Sunday, and Wednesday through Saturday.

**Cooper** – The Cooper is open Sunday and Monday, and Thursday through Saturday.

**Engraver** – William has been working this week on small jewelry pieces and cutting the Colonial Williamsburg seal on some pewter dishes. Emma has dived into lots of practice on lettering drawing and cutting. She has found a few pewter pieces to practice on as well as getting the hand of some watercolor tinting on some of the prints. She has also been working with Emily on her cursive writing and introducing her to color mixing and how to build those color layers. She is planning to make color wheels next week with Emily. Emma's textbooks will be here soon, and she will begin on her many required drawings for her apprenticeship. Lynn is setting up interviews for the Foundry's intern position, working on a copperplate with the Colonial Williamsburg seal and catching up on paperwork. Both apprentices' binders (progress logbooks) are up to date.



**The Engraver is open Tuesday through Saturday.**



*Farmer* – Tobacco has been in the field for about three months and cutting began two weeks ago. I chose for six good leaves instead of ten based on the growth of the plant on this new soil. It has been hung in the new shed that the Carpenters are building.



*1 Tobacco curing at Ewing Field.*

The Farmer is at Ewing Field Wednesday through Saturday, weather permitting.

*Fifes and Drums* – The Fifes and Drums will be performing Wednesday through Friday at 4:40 pm in Market Square, Saturday at 12:30 pm starting at the Capitol and marching to the Palace, and Saturday at 1 pm on the Play House Stage.

*Founder* – The Foundry is open Wednesday through Sunday.

*Gardener* – The Historic Garden is open Daily, weather permitting.

*Gunsmith* – The Gunsmith is open Sunday, Monday, Friday, and Saturday.

*Harpsichordmaker* – From the harpsichord corner, greetings...

We have now turned to the complicated veneer work on the bentside and tail panels of the spinet case. After working the case side slightly rough, we clamped it entirely to the side of the bench so that we can use our tools to the surface more conveniently. The positioning also allows the use of go-bars, long sticks of wood wedged between the glued work and the ceiling.

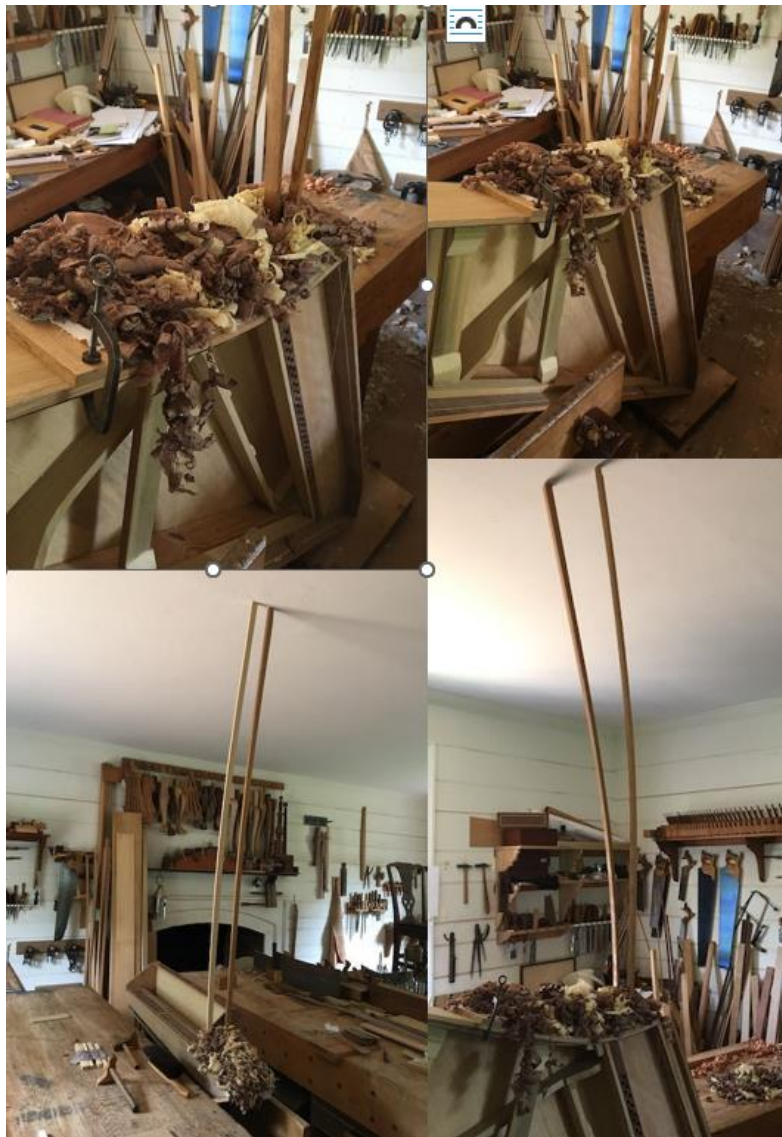
It might seem a crazy procedure, clamping an entire spinet sideways to the bench, but everything is stable and tight and appropriately position for the work.

Glue is applied to both sides of the veneer to keep it stable and undistorted. We then press it to the case, apply our rubbing hammers to remove air and excess glue until the hot glue cools and grabs well. Wet rags keep the veneer from drying out to quickly before the glue can fully set up its full bond.

By the way, the use of go bars is a very regular practice in stringed instrument work, and mentioned as a viable method in Andre-Jacques Roubo's treatise on veneer and marquetry, published in 1772.

Oh, and the wood shaving piled on top? They are insulating everything so that veneer stays stable, not drying too fast before the glue has firmed up.

Come see the work in progress. Cheers.



The Harpsichordmaker is open Sunday (11:30-5:00), Monday, and Thursday through Saturday.

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*Joiner* – The Joiner is open Sunday, and Wednesday through Saturday.

*Leather Breeches Maker* – The Leather Breeches Maker is open Sunday, and Wednesday through Saturday.

*Masonry* – The Brickyard is open Daily, weather permitting.

*Military Programs* – Military Interpretation at the Guardhouse is open Daily.

*Milliner and Mantua-maker* – The Milliner and Mantua-maker is open Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday.

*Musket Range* – The Musket Range is open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday with sessions at 9:30am, 11am, 1:30pm, and 3pm.

*Printer* – The Printer is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

*Shoemaker* – The Shoemaker is open Sunday through Thursday.

*Silversmith* – The Silversmith is open Sunday through Friday.

*Tailor* – The Tailor is open Tuesday through Saturday.

*Tin Plate Worker* – The Tin Plate Worker is open Wednesday through Saturday.

*Weaver, Spinner, and Dyer* – The Weaver is open Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday. It will be open on Monday for two Workshops ONLY.

*Wheelwright* – The Wheelwright is open Sunday, and Tuesday through Thursday.

*Wigmaker* – The Wig Shop is open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

***Thank you, Shari, for editing this publication and for your many years of service to the Department of Historic Trades & Skills of Colonial Williamsburg.***

*The Mechanick's Adviser* is a publication of the Colonial Williamsburg Department of Historic Trades & Skills.

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