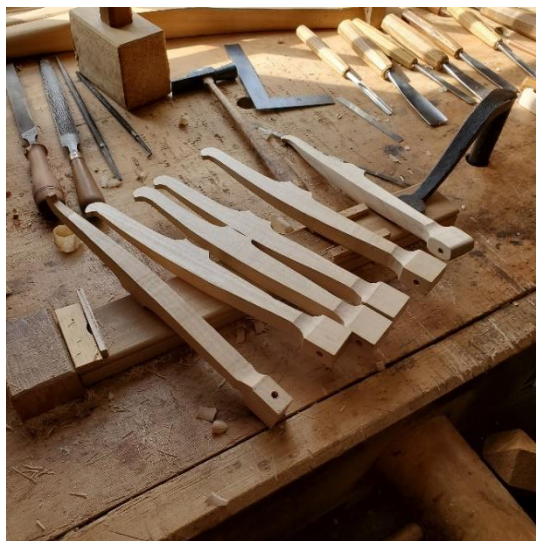


THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

September 30, 2022

Anthony Hay Shop:

Cabinetmaker – Around the Cabinet Shop, John has put the final coats of seedlac onto his mahogany drop-leaf dining table reproduction. It is now available for sale right out of the Shop. Jeremy is moving along quickly on his hanging cupboard. The door is completed, and he is beginning work on the moldings. He should have this piece finished by the end of October, then he'll be turning his efforts back to installing hardware and leather on the desk and bookcase. Bill has been making parts for some new frame saws around the Shop. These saws are used as turning saws to cut curves. When he is finished, each person in the Shop will have their own frame saw to add to their toolkit.



Harpichord-maker – From the Harpsichord corner ...

With good sharpening of a veneer web (another name for a saw), we have sawn out walnut to finish the lid. The new spinet sits upon its assembled and bolted stand.

Forgive the brevity, we are very busy.

Come see us as it all comes together.



2022 spinet on stand for the first time



Bolt assembly for spinet stand



Walnut sawn for lid with veneer web

The Cabinetmaker and Harpsichord-maker are open Daily. On Wednesday, October 5th, 4:30pm in the Hennage Auditorium, the Cabinetmakers will present “Tools Tell Stories: The Planes of Cesar Chelor”. Join the Cabinetmakers as they construct a raised panel door using planes reproduced from originals by free Black plane-maker Cesar Chelor. His surviving tools offer tangible insight into his life and work and the work of his customers, like cabinetmakers and joiners.

***Apothecary* – The Apothecary Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.**

Armoury:

Blacksmith – Last week, the Blacksmith Shop was active on quite a lot of building hardware, with Josh and Broadus making slide bolts, and Ken continuing work on hinges. Tradesmen’s tools took an even more prominent place, with Aislinn continuing work on a lead cutting tool, Alex making axes and a ladle, Broadus finishing up some dividers for the Joiners, and Mark working on a number of stakes and a hammer for the Tinsmiths. The Shop also saw a spear come sailing through, in need of adjustment for our colleagues in the American Indian Initiative. Aislinn has also been making a type of tweezer for them out of coiled brass wire, not a metal often seen in our Shop. Regardless of where it’s come from or where it’s going, all’s well that falls well at the foot of the anvil.

The Blacksmith Shop will be open Daily.

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

Brickmaker – The Masonry Trades site continues to be the best place in town for folks who like to see things stacked atop other things. The work of building the clampe continues apace, and the construction of the fire tunnels is coming along nicely.

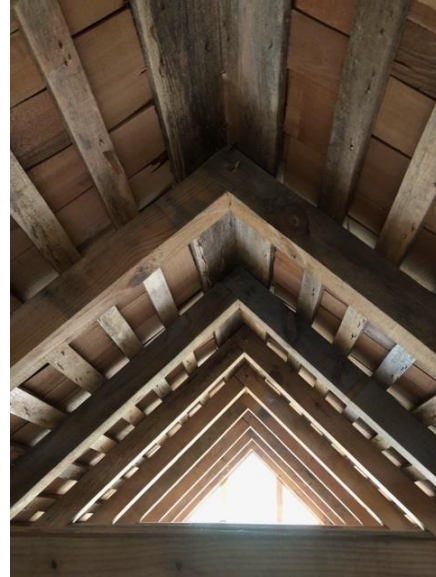
Meanwhile, our friends at the Engraving Shop gifted us a beautiful print they reproduced from William Pyne’s *Microcosm*, which shows a circa-1800 brickmaker joylessly pulling a specialized hackbarrow. The print is much beloved by the Brickmakers, since it offers a glimpse of our (often ignored, from an artistic standpoint) trade with views of a clay-mixing pugmill and a female brickmaker off to load up more brick. We offer our hearty thanks to Lynn, Master Engraver, for making this happen! But another Shop also likes this print: the Wheelwrights used Pyne’s take on brickyard life to reproduce as closely as possible the hackbarrow depicted in it. What’s a hackbarrow? you might find yourself asking. It’s a specialized wheelbarrow used for moving bricks. Our new one, delivered personally by Master Wheelwright Paul, is a real beast and should be able to heft 50 bricks with no problem. Very handy while building the clampe! Our favorite parts are the legs, made with bent hickory cannibalized from an old ox yoke. Come on by the Brickyard and see us putting the new barrow through its paces!

And happily, our “friends” at the Carpenters Yard have finished siding the Brickyard tool shed and are now fitting the doors in place. We’ve been sharing a tool shed long enough with them and will happily move all our stuff to the newly sided and secure shed. It was really becoming a bit of an “Odd Couple” situation at our combined site, and let’s just say the Brickmakers were not Oscar Madison.



The Brickyard will be open Sunday through Thursday, weather permitting.

Carpenter – This last week, Harold, Mary, and Owen pushed hard to complete the shingling on the back side of the Brickyard drying house in hopes to beat the rain. They got to peak Thursday, September 29th, in the afternoon. Though we still need three courses at the peak to make it fully watertight, there is enough of an overlap that the rain hadn't made it through as of mid-morning on Friday the 30th. Bobby, Ayinde, and Matt have completed all exterior work on the tool house, as well. The first week of October, we should be done with the drying house roof, clean the site, and start the test assembly of the next frame for the Farm site.



Pictures of a wet outside and dry inside

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

Colonial Garden – Regular visitors to the Historic Garden will notice that the large castor bean plants are no longer present. The removal of these flowering perennials is undertaken in the early fall as the tropical species cannot survive our winters. It is quite the chore, however, as the plant has a well-established root system that requires digging out and chopping up. The bed that formerly contained the castor bean plants was only empty for a scant few days before being turned, hoed, and planted with three varieties of cabbage: Dutch white, red, and tete noire. Cabbage is a cold-hardy planting that will go through the winter season with minimal need for weather protection.

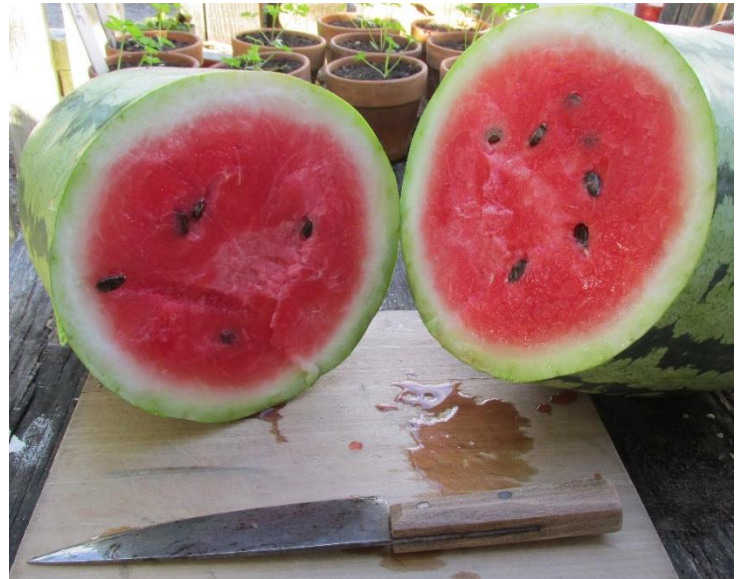


Castor Bean (*Ricinus communis*)



Three varieties of *Brassica oleracea*

The Gardeners took the opportunity to sample one of the fruits of the late summer season when we harvested our Georgia Rattlesnake watermelon. The dry conditions this summer made for a wonderfully sweet taste. Readers are encouraged to try their hand at growing their own *Citrullus lanatus* as seeds can be purchased from Colonial Williamsburg retailers.



Fun Fact: watermelon is botanically a type of berry called a *pepo*.

The storm that swept through the Historic Area last week knocked over the Garden's trellised cypress vine. Several additional support sticks and a little rope were needed to set the very full plant amalgamation back to vertical. Will the Apprentice's provisional solution be proof against the next storm? We shall see...



Ipomoea quamoclit collapsed about the *Citrus × latifolia*



Somewhere within the mass of greenery is a trellis.

This week concluded with yet more harvesting of vegetables. Historic Foodways collected parsley, potatoes, a turkey cucumber, welsh onions, and the first of our fall radishes! From the Sankofa Garden, we gathered sesame seeds!



Petroselinium crispum, *Solanum tuberosum*, *Cucumis melo*, *Raphanus sativus*, and *Allium fistulosum*



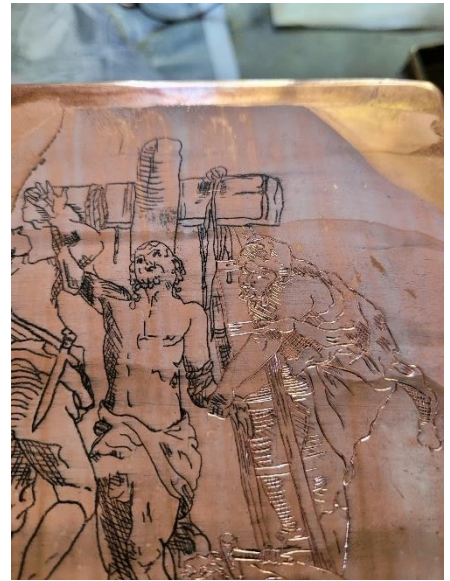
Sesamum indicum

The Colonial Garden will be open Daily, weather permitting.

Cooper – This week, the Coopers turned the tobacco hogshead over to the Wheelwrights for adaptation for drawing by horse. Look for more on this later this month on social media. In addition, we continue to work on buckets and piggins, and to transcribe the 18th-century treatise.

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

Engraver – In the last couple of weeks, we have been moving forward on a few things. William has been practicing his Roman and script lettering. He is preparing to draw out the inscription on his next major copperplate project. This will incorporate some script and Roman lettering in an ornamental cartouche boarder. We have been looking at quite a few ideas on the possibilities with the cartouche design. William also finished up quite a few trade silver letter charms and engraved his first production engraving of bottle tickets. All of these items have been returned to the Silversmiths. I have been working on a few Boston Massacre prints, which I have taken to the framer in Yorktown. These will go to Aramark. A few new prints are in the works, and I have been continuing to work on the sundial drawing.



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

Foodways – The Historic Foodways staff will be in the Palace Kitchen Monday through Thursday. They will be in the Palace Scullery on Sunday, October 2nd, for the “Arts and Mysteries of Brewing”.

Foundry – This week in the Foundry has seen more small pewter cups getting a new lease on life from their current very tarnished state. Apprentices Leanne and Drew practiced some more mold making for silver work we’re casting once Hurricane Ian leaves us. In the mold are some small feet for the Silversmiths; star pendants, which look festive for the upcoming Holiday Season; and some tea caddy scoops which are a redemption project as the last ones we cast didn’t fill all the way. Journeyman Mike has started work on a piece of door hardware in bronze. Upcoming, we’ll be reproducing some drumhead tensioners for the Fifes & Drums Corps, so exciting things ahead!



The Foundry will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

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

Historic Farming – A big welcome to new Apprentice Kevin Tobias! Kevin comes to CW with five years’ experience as a Historic Farmer at Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation and a master’s degree in History. He has jumped right into the Apprentice program with plowing, flax processing, and planting wheat. Welcome Kevin!



Kevin Tobias



Kevin processing flax with guests

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

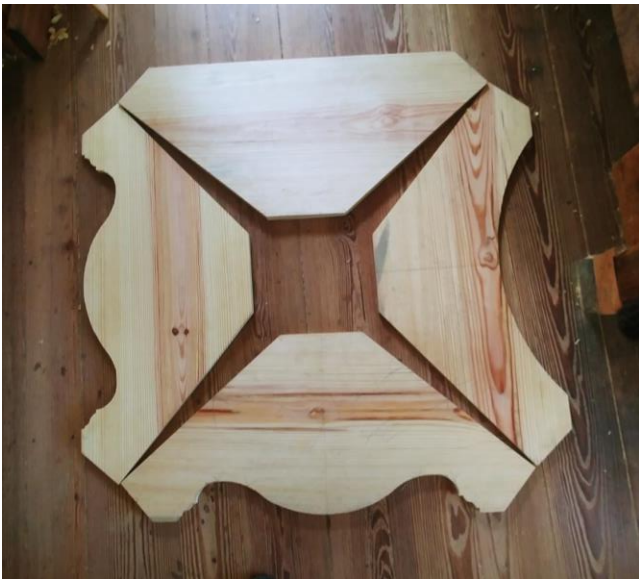
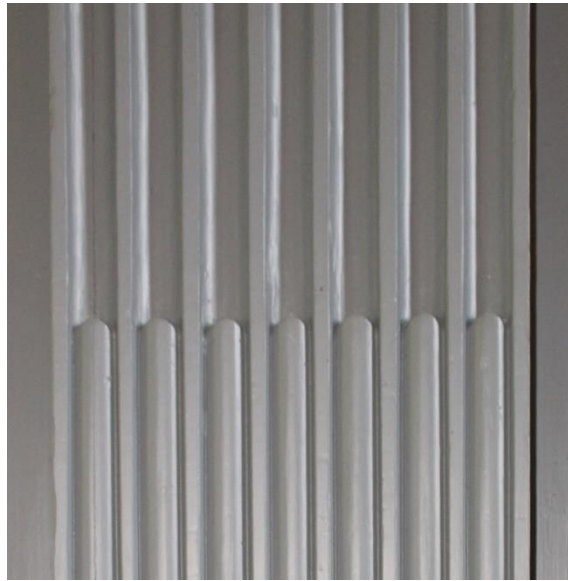
Joinery – Hello from the Joiner Shop! We’re moving ahead with our current projects. Peter and Brian will be presenting at the January *Woodworking Symposium*. As you may remember from previous editions, Peter’s investigation of arched porticos has led him to Menokin Plantation. We have several examples of curved frame and panel construction around Williamsburg: the Raleigh Tavern, the Capitol, and even the curved railings at Bruton Parish Church. However, at Menokin, since all the interior woodwork was removed and placed in storage, it has been a gold mine for research.



For Brian’s Symposium presentation, he’s researching pilasters. Pilasters and Columns are kind of analogous to the difference between Joiners and Carpenters. Like Carpenters, Columns are integral to the structure of the building; if you remove a Column, the building falls. Pilasters, though they look like Columns, are just decorative – so they are Joiners’ work. If you remove them, you’re probably just remodeling. Brian found a great example of a pilaster at the Rolfe House across the James River.



The Pilasters seem to be based on the Doric Order of Architecture. It’s a style seen quite often in Virginia for its plainer, yet fashionable, proportions. Below is a detail of the cabling found on the lower part of the fluting. Department of Historic Trades and Skills



Scott is making real progress on the Eastern Shore Corner Cupboard. He has the shelves, the top, and the bottom cut and shaped. He's now moved to planning the vertical backboards. Unlike most case pieces where you build a dovetailed box then fit the shelves, this will be assembled from the inside out, like building a boat. The shelves/ribs create the shape, and the backboards/planking are nailed to the shelves holding it all together. In the picture below, clockwise from the top are the bottom shelf, the shelf in the lower section, and two of the shelves from the upper section.

Laura's currently working on a frame and panel piece, developing skills in cutting mortise and tenon joints, using a plow plane, and beveling a panel. She's about ready to glue the whole thing up.



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

Military Programs – Military Interpretation at the Guardhouse is open Daily, Sunday to Friday is 9:00-5:00, and Saturday is 11:30-5:00. Although specific Military programming will no longer be advertised, the following will still occur: “Military Activities” at 10am Daily will consist of either a public drill or our new recruiting program. At 2pm each day, we will have our “Discussion of Military Topics”, where one of our staff members will be discussing a subject of military history and answer questions from the Guests. Musket demonstrations are generally dependent on staff numbers for that day, but typically between 11am and 4pm. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, we will be doing an infantry demonstration at 4:20pm for our “Necessity of Order in Battle” program. We are not doing cannon demonstrations at the present time.

Milliner and Mantua-maker – Last week, preparations were being finalized for this past Monday's last day of filming for the "Gown in a Day" livestream segment with Justin. This final bit of footage will capture the three ensembles - dating to 1774, 1784, and 1810 - complete with hair styled to each respective decade by Wigmaker Extraordinaire Edith. There's just a tiny bit of millinery left to go for the 1774 gown, towards which Kate has diligently dedicated her needle and thimble. Meanwhile, Rebecca has conjured two cloaks out of the one piece of fabric provided by CDC and has begun piecing the bodies and attaching the neckbands to the hoods. This specific cloak, which features elongated points in front, is patterned from an original in the Collection. Janea has been attending to some necessary mending and ever-encroaching paperwork piles.

Our Research Day last week was spent discussing the application of our two most recent training sessions to our daily Shop interpretation and our long-term site goals and objectives. We also mapped out our programming and major project commitments for 2023 and began writing up the formalized proposals for each. At the very least, we think we've figured out how to keep ourselves busy enough to stay out of trouble for the year to come...!

PS - Just because there are blank spaces left on our 2023 chart doesn't mean we don't have mischief and mayhem forthcoming to fill them.



The Milliner and Mantua-maker will be open Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Music – Greetings from The Governor’s Musick! Opening night of our Palace Concert of Music from the Post Office was this week. This program continues on Tuesday evenings through October.

Kyle's organized piano concerts, in the "Making Music in Early America" exhibit in the Leckie Gallery at the Art Museums, continue on Fridays at 2pm every other week through the Fall. If you've never heard an organized piano (a piano and organ mash-up), you should! It's weird and wonderful. He is also working on a new Hennage program using the 1744 book of spinet lessons from Peter Pelham that is also on display in the Music exhibit.

Brady is putting the finishing touches on his upcoming Hennage presentation (Friday, October 7th at 4:30pm) on Isaac Bickerstaff. Bickerstaff was an 18th-century playwright who wrote the librettos to enormously popular comic operas, including Thomas Arne's *Love in a Village*, which was performed here in Williamsburg. Bickerstaff's career was ruined when he fled England to France to avoid arrest for the crime of being homosexual. His past works continued to be performed to packed houses, but he himself was unwelcome in his native land and could not get any new works staged. Brady has also been wrapping up his research on Sylvestro Ganassi's 1543 viola da gamba tutorial, *Regola Rubertina*.

Jenny continues researching the enslaved in Virginia and the influence of African elements of music on Western European folk forms. She is reading *Banjo Roots and Branches*, and *World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of the Material Life of Slaves in the United States*.

Karol has started research into the political connotations of the repertory of theater companies. She is reading "A Repertoire of the American Colonial Theatre Compiled from Material Gathered for Colonial Theater: Its History and Operations", in the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Library Research Report Series.

We are enjoying the beautiful Fall weather (except for the hurricane part)! Best wishes.

Printer and Bookbinder:

Printing Office – The Printing Office will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

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

Public Leather Works – Greetings once again from The Public Leather Works. It is the first day of Fall as I write this, and that can only mean one thing here at the PLW: bayonet belts!!! Mr. Howlett has been hard at it, finishing off a run of bayonet belts to go with the scabbards we finished off a while back. Ms. Cross is making excellent progress on a pair of leather breeches for Joel at the Wheelwright Shop, and Mr. Tilley has also been working on a new pair of breeches.

With Fall officially here and, given the unbridled success of the Spring jellybeans survey, we humbly offer our Fall survey: Pumpkin Spice -vs- Apple Cider. Submit your responses to: jtilley@cwf.org. Results will be announced before Evacuation Day (aka: Thanksgiving), so Holiday meals may be appropriately furnished with the proper libations.

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

Shoemaker – Nicole is fixing a pair of shoes for Owen Kelsey and working on a pair of domed square toe shoes for Apprentice points. The shoe Nicole is copying was found concealed in the Brafferton School on the campus of William and Mary. It was most likely hidden during renovations to the building during the 1730's. Victoria is almost mid-way through her first pair of heeled slippers, and Val is fixing a pair of shoes for Tim Logue. Val also recently finished a pair of common shoes for Steve Delisle. On Thursday, the Shop attended Ted's I.D.E.A. training in the afternoon. Victoria worked on scheduling for the GSD committee and tied up some loose ends on her key basket research, in preparation of further work down the road. Nicole clicked out shoe uppers with the leather that the Shop had dressed last year and copied an uppers pattern that Rob had lent the Shop. Val helped with the cleaning out of Tom Redd's old office and took care of some correspondence.

The Shoemakers will be at the Armoury on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Silversmith – Work continues as always in the Silversmith Shop. Tam’s internship ended, and we wish her well in her future endeavors! She has left us with numerous letter charms and rings that will be sent to the Golden Ball. Megan and Bobbie have returned from their research trip to England, and Chris has returned from her research trip to the Winterthur Museum. We are looking forward to compiling our findings. Megan is piercing her silver fish trowel and raising her silver bowls. Chris is chasing her silver tray, and it’s getting closer and closer to the soldering stage. Bobbie is working on chasing a small silver tray. Preston finished polishing Bobbie’s tray, and it has been sent off to its new home. He is now working on a very large silver spoon and his small silver bowls. George has been hammering out a silver ingot into sheet for another fish trowel. He has also been hammering out more silver teaspoons and mote spoons.



Megan’s fish trowel



Tam’s letter charms



Preston’s large spoon



Bobbie’s small tray



Bobbie's large tray is polished and ready to go to its new home.

The Silversmith Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

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

Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing – While one loom still contains dimity, the other now has some beautiful cotton, reproducing a piece in the Winterthur Museum Library referred to as *siamoise*. The name comes from the original inspiration, the beautifully patterned cotton and silk clothing the ambassadors to the King of Siam (Thailand) wore on visits to France in the 1680s. By our era, it bore little resemblance despite retaining the name and was used primarily as upholstery and bed curtains. Our original thought in reproducing this dark and striking piece had been that using a thin white thread in the weft (threads thrown back and forth) would lead to seeing the warp (threads attached to the loom) more prominently; we discovered that we still had a beautiful yet more muted effect. Did this stop us? Of course not! We experimented, and with a simple change from white to brown, we were able to achieve the results we wanted. Our attached picture shows the line from one color to the other; oh, what a difference a thread makes!



The Weaving Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, and Thursday through Saturday.

Wheelwright – Those Wheelwrights have been busy over the past couple of weeks, but progress has been made in spades! Master Wheelwright Paul has completed two new vehicles: a hackbarrow for the Brickyard and a unique hogshead roller vehicle for Farmer Ed's tobacco. The Coopers made the hogshead and the Blacksmiths the metal hardware; Paul supplied the shafts and spiked fellys around the cask. The hogshead acts as the wheel as seen in the print and was used by Virginia farmers for tobacco transportation. Check out the hogshead roller compared to the 18th-century print below it! The Apprentices are making headway on their hand cart project, too. Murphy is currently doing a cleanup and chamfer on the components of the cart body, while Joel is knee deep in 'ringing out' it's wheels. Plow and paint research, as well as research for future wheelbarrow designs, is also underway.





The Wheelwright Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday (11:30-5:00).

Wigmaker – Greetings from the Wig Shop! We have been busy with a variety of activities lately. Edith has continued to dress Military hair on Thursday mornings. This past week, she styled all the Milliners' hair for an impromptu photo shoot and assisted Fallon with extensions to achieve her Side Club hairstyle. Edith has also been working on her hand knotted bases. Thomas Jefferson's new wig should make its debut on the streets any day now! It's a different look for Mr. Jefferson, so keep an eye out for it. Benton is working on styling techniques and his Brigadier wig. Intern Lexie has her last day with us this coming week, and we'll be sad to see her go. Edith and Debbie have begun construction on new pieces for our American Indian Delegation. It's exciting to do something new and different! We are in the final stages of preparation for both our Preventative Maintenance and our trip abroad starting next week. Reminder: the Wig Shop is closed from October 3 through October 15.



The Wig Shop will be open Sunday (11:30-5:00).

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

Editor: Shari Monaco

Contributors: Anthony Hay Shop – Jeremy Tritchler (Cabinetmaker) Edward Wright (Harpsichord-maker); Armoury – Alex Hinman (Blacksmith); Brickmaker – Josh Graml; Carpenter – Matt Sanbury; Colonial Garden – Marc Nucup; Cooper – Jon Hallman; Engraver – Lynn Zelesnikar; Foundry – Leanne Bellouny; Historic Farming – Ed Schultz; Joinery – Brian Weldy; Milliner and Mantua-maker – Rebecca Godzik; Music – Karol Steadman; Public Leather Works – Jan Tilley; Shoemaker – Val Povinelli; Silversmith – Megan Cantwell; Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing – Annie Buss; Wheelwright – Joel Morris; Wigmaker – Debbie Turpin