

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

August 20, 2021

Apothecary – Apprentice Tailor Tim asked about apparel for gout patients. Sharon found a recommendation from an M.D. that patients with gout should wear fleecy hosiery to keep their feet and legs warm.

Austin was looking for information that could help determine where Dr. Galt was located in 1777. He found Galt listed on the muster roll for the 15th Virginia Regiment. This list was from the Valley Forge Project, which is connected with the National Park Service. Robin shared info from the Williamsburg Storehouse records for 1777 that documents that supplies from Saint Eustatius were arriving in Williamsburg. Galt is listed as the recipient for some supplies. It appears he is in the area getting the military hospital organized. Sharon also found primary references for Austin related to Galt's activities.

The question came up about Mary Cooley's son who is Dr. Galt's ward. Sharon sent Austin a note that there is a Thomas Cooley in our site records for 1783-85. We were wondering if this was Mary's son. Austin also sent us some info that he found about Mary.

Mark has been busy studying primary sources on midwifery and comparing details from his professional training and experience.

The Apothecary Shop will be open on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

Armoury:

Blacksmith – The Blacksmith Shop will be open Daily.

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

Anthony Hay Shop: The Cabinetmaker and Harpsichord-maker Shop will open on Sunday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Either the Cabinetmakers or the Harpsichord-makers will be at the Art Museum Gallery on Wednesday.

Brickmaker – With the bread oven complete, and our next (and hopefully final) order of pigment on its way from Germany, the Brickmakers have turned their attention to the world outside of Masonry. With the Carpenters hard at work processing the materials for our new Brickyard buildings, we felt it was our duty, nay, our privilege, to assist our fine fellow Tradesmen as well as we can. Seeing the other side of the Building Trades has been an enlightening and, dare I say, enjoyable experience. We had the opportunity to participate in the process of hewing and pit-sawing, with the Carpenters graciously giving us a crash course and making sure we don't mess up anything too bad (sorry, no promises here). We are very fortunate to be able to participate in the construction of our new home, and the Carpenters have been kind enough to take in our wayward souls in the meantime. In other news, we met with the Archaeologists this week at the Magazine, where they found remnants of clay roofing tiles. While tiles are not explicitly in the realm of Masonry, anything related to clay is sure to pique our interest. Clay tile is not an area that we have delved into much, but this recent archaeological discovery has given us the opportunity to undertake new research and expand our area of expertise. Whether it's bricks or tile, clay truly is a wonder material (as Journeyman Kenneth would say), and we just can't get enough of it.

Carpenter – The Carpenter's Yard will be open Daily, weather permitting.

Colonial Garden – This has been quite a warm week in the Colonial Garden, and our work was interrupted by numerous thunderstorms that gave us over four inches of rain. Too much rain accompanied by high temperatures can damage plants and is the ideal condition for blights and fungus. Visitors to the Garden may notice some of the plants we set out in April and May are now winding down for the season. This week, we removed our cantaloupe vines, and we will be replacing them soon with crimson clover for a winter cover crop. Rain and heat are also the perfect recipe for weeds in the Garden, and we have been pulling them up as fast as we can. This week, the Gardeners sowed seeds for many of our winter greens as well as some cold-hardy flowers. Once the weather cools down, we will be able to transplant these out into the Garden. We harvested paw paws, okra, carrots, cucumbers, melons, tomatoes, and hot peppers for use by Historic Foodways in the Palace and Armoury Kitchens. Flowers in bloom in the Garden this week include tuberose (*Agave amica*), love-lies-bleeding (*Amaranthus caudatus*), China aster (*Callistephus chinensis*), and brown-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*).



The fragrant and beautiful tuberose



A basket of produce harvested at the Colonial Garden



Love-Lies-Bleeding, an ornamental flower grown at the Colonial Garden

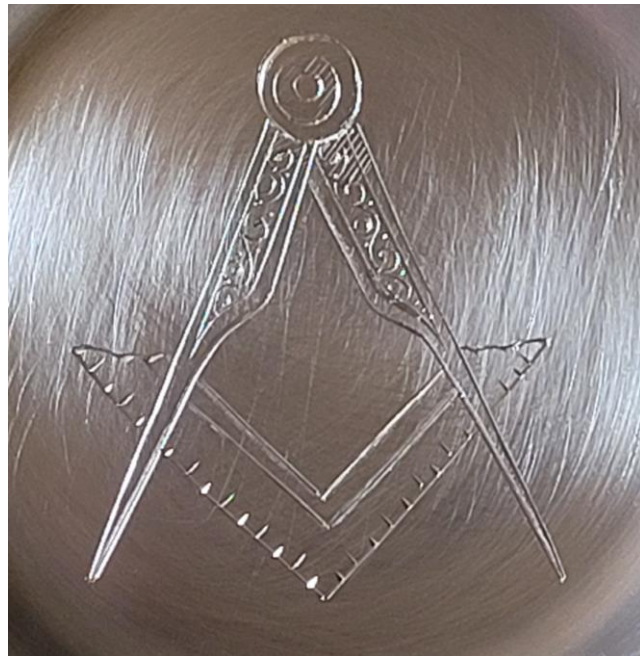
The Colonial Garden is open Daily, weather permitting.

Cooper – The Cooper Shop will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Engraver – This week, the Engravers (William) are working away on monogram designs and apprenticeship goals, planning our outlook on projects we would like to take on in the next several months, and looking at plans for next year.

We are brainstorming lots of ideas for possible blogs, as well as other possible media contributions. Lynn is reading up on counterfeiting money (this is not part of the up-and-coming projects...I promise), and William has been preparing some copper for setting up another printing plate. We hope to get some printing time in soon, but we are finding out there are not enough hours in a day. Working on it.

The Foundry has supplied us with several satin finished pewter plates, and Lynn has engraved one with a masonic symbol in tribute to W. Waddill's dedication to the organization. This week, Lynn is also setting up a few retirement gifts for a special order.



The Engraving Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday. The Engravers will be at the Art Museum Gallery on Thursday.

Foodways – The Foodways Staff will be at the Palace Kitchen on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, and at the Armoury Kitchen on Friday. On Sunday, August 22nd, at 4:30pm in the Hennage Auditorium, the Foodways staff will present “Homebrewing in 18th-century Virginia.” Learn about the importance of beer in colonial Virginia and how it was made.

Foundry – Leanne and Drew are cleaning 6-inch pewter plates for the Engraving Shop, and Mike is producing a gnomon (the part of a sundial that casts a shadow) for a bronze sundial with the Engraving Shop for a dual Trade job.



The Foundry will be open on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Gunsmith – This last week in the Gunsmith Shop, the guys were split up. Darrin and Brad made a trip to the Contemporary Longrifle Association show in Lexington, Kentucky. The show had four hundred tables of both antique arms and accouterments as well as contemporary builders and artisans. They also had the pleasure of walking around with George Suiter, the last Master of the Gunsmith Shop. Richard and Tyler stayed back and "held down the fort", so to speak. It was an intensely hot and humid, as well as a very busy, weekend talking with Guests. Our Intern, Tyler, was able to get a little bit of work done on the forgings he started the prior week. We are now back to full manpower and ready to get back to work. Study material includes many antique firearms and tools, the *Journal of Historical Arms Making Technology, Vol. 2.*, and *Georgian Pistols* by Dixon.

The Gunsmith Shop will be open on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

Historic Farming – The cotton is growing like crazy in this hot, humid weather. The dry spell in May hurt the crop though, and three quarters of it expired, requiring a replanting once it started raining again in early June. This late planting will limit the amount of bolls before they stop growing in October. We'll see. Thus is Farming. Filming projects continue – The Virginia Agricultural Extension Service filmed the historic processes of growing tobacco off and on throughout the summer. In the picture is Mike Parrish, Senior Agricultural Extension Agent,



Ed planting turnips

filming the cutting of a tobacco plant. Turnips have been planted in that space. Large Planters were experimenting with growing turnips for sheep food. These turnips will be eaten by humans through Historic Foodways and the CW Inn.



Filming of tobacco cutting

The Farmer will be at Prentis Field Tuesday through Saturday.

Joinery – The Joinery will be open on Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday. The Joiners will be at the Art Museum Gallery on Saturday. On Monday, August 23rd, at 4:30pm in the Hennage Auditorium, the Joiners will present “John Hemmings: Enslaved Joiner of Monticello.” Many of our premier 18th-century American homes were built with slave labor, and Monticello is no different. Amanda Doggett will present her research on John Hemmings and his contribution to building Thomas Jefferson’s home on the little hill. Her research was conducted January 2019 as a fellow with the International Center for Jefferson Studies in Charlottesville.

Milliner and Mantua-maker – The Millinery will be open on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

Music – We are still missing Soprano Karol, who is recovering from her illness, and we wish her a speedy recovery. Despite the loss of Jay and Danny, the Musicians are looking to the future, most immediately the Fall season. We are happy that we will be doing three 30-minute programs on Wednesday afternoons, beginning September 8th, in the Raleigh Tavern Apollo Room, with a variety of themes. Amy, Jenny, and Brady have already begun to discuss ideas for these presentations. Since our Raleigh day will be switching to Wednesdays in the Fall, we will have our advertised “Music in the Galleries” programming on Fridays at the Museum. We will also be providing unadvertised music there on Tuesday mornings and Saturday afternoons, subject to change. We hope to be taking applications soon for the Harpsichord position and are currently working with Robert Currie of Evening Programs to see what we can do for Palace programs.

Amy virtually attended sessions for the National Flute Association’s 49th Annual Flute Convention last week and came away inspired by experiences of playing Irish music with an Irish band, learning about insights into Bach’s Partita in A Minor for solo flute, hearing music from around the world, and listening to sessions about inclusivity regarding the LBGTQ+ community, how to inspire your students, and other topics of conversation. Through the Whova platform, she was able to download sheet music and programs,

communicate with convention planners, upload photos, and contact old friends and make new ones. She also attended a virtual get together for past students of the late Charley Delaney of FSU fame. There were many prerecorded performances that will be available to watch until September 15th, so the platform allowed convention attendees to do things that would have been impossible in an in-person convention.

The Musicians will be in the Art Museum on Tuesdays and Saturdays (unadvertised and subject to change) and on Wednesdays as advertised, and at the Raleigh Tavern Apollo Room throughout the summer on Fridays, 9:00am to 5:00pm for tours every 15 minutes. On Thursday, August 26th, at 4:30pm in the Hennage Auditorium, the Musicians will present “Is that a cello? Or a viol?” Similar-looking, but from two different families, the cello and the viol coexisted for centuries side-by-side - cousins locked in a bitter popularity contest that only one could win. Explore the history, construction, and repertoire of these two bowed stringed instruments, and hear them both in action!

Printer and Bookbinder:

Printing Office – This week, we had an order from Prentis Store for *The SENTIMENTS of an American Woman*, which was written by Esther Reed and originally published in Philadelphia. Here, you see Chad making up the form that will be in the press for the next few weeks. Come by on Sunday, Monday, and Thursday each week to see the press going. Note: last impression pulled at 4:30 pm.



The Printing Office will be open on Sunday, Monday, and Thursday. The Printers will be at the Art Museum Gallery on Tuesday.

Bindery – The Bookbindery will be open on Sunday, Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.

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

Shoemaker – Rob continues to work on his shoe-boots, and he is going to spend his Research Day sewing on the sole in his home shop. Katie is almost halfway done with a pair of Morocco goat skin slippers for herself. She is going to spend her Research Day working on them in the Shop Office, and continuing her reading mentioned in last week's *Adviser*. Val is almost ready to put the heel on the first of a pair of common shoes for David Wilson. He spent part of his Research Day with Jay Howlett, picking up leather donated to the Shoe Shop and Public Leather Works. It is a very welcome gift, and we thank Lloyd and Susan Moskowitz for their generosity, as well as Carol Frix for setting up the introduction. Val is also going to continue cleaning the Shop on Duke of Gloucester Street. Val, Rob, and Nicole have been dressing leather in the Armoury yard and have one skin completed. Another skin was dressed, but the weather prevented the first glue and final size from being applied. If the weather cooperates on Thursday, Val will apply those last two components.



Rob's shoe-boot and split-lifts (the first layer of the heel)



Katie's slipper in progress (the slipper is sewn inside out)



The slipper has been turned right side out and is drying on the last. Since the sole is curved, and we want the top piece of the heel to be level, the split-lift acts as a wedge, allowing that to happen.



Val is almost done with the first of a pair of common shoes for David Wilson.



A dressed skin waiting for the first glue and final size.



A completed skin which will hang for a week, and then be rolled up. After a year's time, the skin will be ready for use for uppers.

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

Silversmith – The Silversmith Shop will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday. The Silversmiths will be at the Art Museum Gallery on Friday.

Tailor – The Tailor Shop will be open on Sunday, Thursday, and Saturday. The Tailors will be in the Art Museum Gallery on Monday.

Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing – Our last Dye Day, we tried something a little bit different, and it was a resounding success. Usually, we like to have multiple dyebaths so that we can show our guests a wide

variety of colors. This last Dye Day, we instead decided to focus on one dye, Madder Root. This dye usually gives a peach-to-brick-red color range, with oranges being the preferred color. Eighteenth-century sources warn not to heat up your dye too much, as this will give a brown color. We also occasionally come across recipes that call for metals, minerals, acids, and other substances to be added to achieve different colors and shades. So naturally, we decided to test them all on the same day. Mordants, or fixatives we treat the fiber with to ensure the dye binds fully and completely, were added. Alum, Iron, Tannic Acid, Copper Sulfate, and Tin were used, with each altering the way the dye would bind to the fibers. An unmordanted control was added, as well. After an equal amount of time in the dye pot, our skeins of madder-dyed yarn had achieved a rich color. These skeins were then divided up into an acid vinegar afterbath, an alkaline soda ash afterbath, a tin afterbath, a copper sulfate afterbath, and an iron afterbath. With that, we had managed to achieve thirty unique shades with one single dye pot. We hope to use what we learned this last Dye Day in the future, to give an even better range of colors in the future.



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

Wheelwright – A very warm week over at the Wheelwrights. Apprentice Joel not only installed the metal hooks and rivets for his horse cart project, but he has also successfully installed the cart's spindle siding. He is currently working on installing the rave, a rail that will go atop each spindle. Joel will begin preparing and installing flooring next week, the last of the wooden components before he tries his hand at making paint. Pictured below is Journeyman Paul, driving the spokes into the hub of his timber cart wheels with a hammer. Now, only the wooden rim components, or fellys, remain for that pair. Three cheers go to Apprentice

Blacksmith Alex, who finished the iron banding for the cannon wheel hubs earlier in the week. Paul continues to work on both sets of wheels. Speaking of metal work done by a Blacksmith, the Wheelwright Shop will be installing metal tires on to carriage wheels next Tuesday afternoon, the 24th of August, as part of the CWF's "Trades Tuesday" Facebook Livestream! Only a few more days to go!



The Wheelwrights will be at the Armoury on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Wigmaker – This past week, we re-adjusted to being a two woman show, after Sydney's departure. We figure by the end of this coming week, we should be well adjusted again. Of course, then our new Apprentice starts, and we're back up to a three-person show! Huzzah! We are so happy to formally announce that Benton Parker will be joining the hairy chaos on August 29th! If you see Benton about town this week, be sure to give him your congratulations, or your condolences, if you prefer. Either way, we're incredibly excited to be bringing him on board. Edith continues to work on the flax wig, and Debbie gives her much credit for the endeavor. Weaving flax on three threads by hand is no easy feat! But Weaver Joe did warn us. Maintenance continues this week, and the Marquis's wig should be done any second now. Maybe...

The Wig Shop will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The Wigmakers will be in the Art Museum Gallery on Sunday.

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

Editor: Shari Monaco

Contributors: Apothecary – Robin Kipps, Brickmaker – Nicholas White, Colonial Garden – Teal Brooks, Engraver – Lynn Zelesnikar, Foundry – Mike Noftsgar, Gunsmith – Darrin McDonal, Historic Farming – Ed Schultz, Music – Amy Miller, Printer and Bookbinder – Peter Stinely (Printing Office), Shoemaker – Val Povinelli, Weaver – Joe Wixted, Wheelwright – Joel Morris, Wigmaker – Debbie Turpin