



THE MECHANICK'S ADVISOR

11/3/2023

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Bookbinder

Tuesday through Saturday

Hello! My name is Abigail Cagle, and I am a sophomore at William and Mary who is interning at the Bookbindery. I'm majoring in Linguistics with a particular interest in philology, and I'm minoring in History via the NIAHD Program. In the shop, I've been learning from Barbie better how to interpret with compassion, wisdom, and enthusiasm. I've also been learning from Bob about economy of motion and the sort of joy that comes from craftsmanship. Everyone has been very lovely to work alongside and learn from!

- Barbara
Swanson



Abigail making use of the light on a rainy day.

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Brickyard

Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday

This week at the Brickyard the crew continues to stack the kiln taller. These will be the last few courses before the platting (casing for the top of the kiln) goes on and we scove the exterior. Scoving is a simple process of smearing a sandy mixture of clay to the casing of the kiln, this will greatly improve the efficiency of the firing. Who doesn't love smearing a very chilled wet mixture on rough cold bricks? Sounds like a jolly good time. Otherwise, this past week Master Josh debuted his Halloween costume - Cousin It.

- Madeleine Bolton



The coping bricks make an interesting layer near the upper middle of the stack.



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Cabinet Maker

Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday

Please welcome apprentice cabinetmaker Tamsyn, the newest member of the Hay Shop! Though Tam is new to us, she may be familiar to many of you having worked in CW's stores and serving internships with both the coopers and silversmiths in the recent past. We're excited to introduce her to the trade and see where she takes it.

Meanwhile, Bill has been knocking together a prototype for the poplar chair he's constructing for the Working Wood conference in January and preparing his lecture on enslaved cabinetmakers for next week's "I Made This" conference at the Art Museums. John has been practicing secret mitered dovetails - one of the most challenging dovetail variants - in preparation for building the upper case of his cellaret project. This joint combines the clean look of a miter on the outside with the considerable strength of a dovetail on the inside.

- Bill Pavlak



John has been practicing his secret mitered dovetails.



Meet Tamsyn, our new apprentice cabinetmaker.

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Cooper

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

We occasionally get questions in the Cooper's Shop about yokes used to carry buckets. With that in mind, we recently decided to make one to have on hand in the shop. We used a piece of poplar provided to us by our colleagues at the Carpenter's Yard.

- Jonathan Hallman



Shoulder yoke for carrying buckets.

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Farming

Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday

Corn was the essential “Giver of Life” for all peoples in the Americas. Its calories sustained life. We recently harvested the corn with the help of Darin Durham and his team of oxen. As you can tell below- the oxen love corn as well! This year, the rare 18th century type of corn called “gourdseed” will be sent to Anson Mills in South Carolina who will distribute it to modern farmers to grow and this corn will be ground in Anson Mills. The hope is that we can soon get this gourdseed corn on the tables at the Taverns. A real taste of the past.

- Ed Schultz



Gourdseed corn in ox cart.



Darin Durham with Roscoe the ox's tongue!

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Fife and Drums

We've been very busy the past two weeks at Fife & Drum. On October 20th, we led the William & Mary Homecoming parade up Richmond Road followed by Glenn Close and her dog Pip. Last Thursday, we performed at the Trunk or Treat for James River Elementary School and certainly had the most historically accurate costumes. We also performed as part of the Power of Place launch and greatly enjoyed playing Prince Eugene's March as fireworks went off.

- Brodie Adams



Seabolt and Green escort Audrain Motor Sports group from the Lodge to Shields Tavern



The Senior Corps marches down Duke of Gloucester Street after their afternoon performance



Ms. Sterner brought the Recruits and non-marching Privates up to see a Junior Corps performance

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Founder

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

Last week we, along with Apprentice Engraver William, headed over to the Archaeological Collections Building where we met with Sean Devlin who showed us a number of artifacts that were found during the archaeology of the Geddy Foundry. We've seen photos of some of these items before in books we've read for the apprenticeship, but it's quite something different to see and hold the actual pieces in our hands. A special thank you goes to Sean for making this possible. Now that the Geddy site is back open from being closed for maintenance, Mike has completed work on the candlestick bobeches. He has also started working on a pair of silver shoe buckles. Drew and Leanne have completed another batch of 500 pewter musket balls for use as souvenirs at the musket range. We'd like to get a head start casting another batch, but we must wait until the new firebrick lining in our forge is fully cured before we can use it. That means, the apprentices can use this time to get another one of their goals for the year completed by soldering and finishing a pair of pewter tapersticks each.

- Andrew Godzik

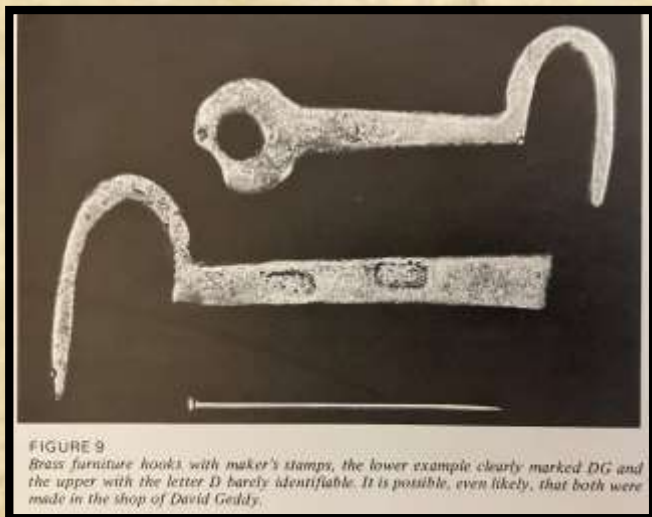


FIGURE 9
Brass furniture hooks with maker's stamps, the lower example clearly marked DG and the upper with the letter D barely identifiable. It is possible, even likely, that both were made in the shop of David Geddy.

*Photo from James Geddy and Sons:
Colonial Craftsmen by Ivor Noel Hume.*



*Photo of the same hook from
Archaeological Collections.*

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Milliner and Mantua-Maker

Tuesday through Saturday

Last week was a whirlwind of a week for the milliners/mantua-makers! On Tuesday and Friday, we hosted workshops for the North American Textiles Conservation Conference. Our goal was to introduce clothing conservators to the hands and minds of 18th-century makers by allowing them to handle reproduction garments, pick apart seams, watch a gown fitting, experiment with the cutting of a jacket, learn some new stitches, and take a whack at pinking 18th-century style. On Saturday morning, Rebecca presented at the Omohundro "Contested Freedoms" conference; she and two fellow members of the "She Had on When She Went Away" creative team offered a lecture cum workshop about archival silences and the importance of expanding definitions of "research" and "documents" in the honest representation of history.



Workshop participants learn to think like a mantua-maker, puzzling out how to cut a jacket from only 40 inches of fabric.



Lanah Sawyer's recreated ensemble on display during rehearsal at UNC Chapel Hill.

Kate, meanwhile, journeyed to the University of North Carolina to showcase the completed reconstruction of Lanah Sawyer's ensemble as part of the "Sacred Nine" musical interpretation of "The Sewing Girl's Tale." In her talk-back with the audience afterwards, she shared her experiences as a CW apprentice, sewing as Lanah would have, and discussed the research behind the recreation of her garments. It's been a week defined by demonstrations of the value of material realization as a necessary partner to textual sources...and we were even rewarded for our efforts with a nod to one of our trades on Jeopardy!

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Musket Range

Ticket Event

BIG NEWS from the Musket Range. First we set a new all time record for the month of October. Second Doug is now a full fledged Musket Range instructor! Doug has completed all his training and is now instructing shooters. Which brings us to thirdly we have now opened up to six shooters per session! We look forward to the fall fully staffed!

- Jeffery Thomas



Doug instructing for the first time.

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Shoemaker

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Sunday

The Shoemakers have moved out of the Armoury shed into the Leather Breeches Shop just in time for the cold front.
- *Nicole Boileau*



Val repairing Mark Schnieder's boots



Nicole is halfway done with a pair of channel pumps and overshoes

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Wheelright

Sunday through Friday

We're back from a whirlwind two-week tour of England and Scotland. There, we attended The Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights annual Michaelmas Dinner, a black-tie event held at Goldsmith's Hall, London. We also had opportunity to study collections at The Museum of English Rural Life in Reading, The Highland Folk Museum in Kingnuisse, Scotland, visit our friends Master Wheelwright Douglas Andrews in his shop in Heathfield, and Master Phill Gregson in Southport. More things than can be typed for this update! We are grateful for our generous donors that allowed us this opportunity.

- Paul Zelesnikar



Paul with a 1780 Carrier's Wagon at MERL.



Studying objects in Scotland.

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Wigmaker

Sunday through Thursday

We've been weaving our increasingly chilled fingers into tangles lately. We have three different human hair wigs all being produced at the same time. One for static display, one for Benton to utilize himself, and one for Apprentice Leather Breeches Maker Wilson. We are all doing different blending techniques as well. Benton's is unique in it's color blocking. Some hair styling has been done recently as well. As always, feel free to reach out to us for any hair related needs or questions. Also, if you know you have special programming coming up in the next couple months, please do not wait to let us know. The sooner we know about it, the sooner we can get your hair ready for you!

- Debra Turpin



Benton's color blocked frame, Edith & Elias's color blend for display, Debbie's frame for Wilson.



One of our most satisfied customers reflecting on life.

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Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Apothecary**
 - *Sunday through Thursday*
- **Blacksmith**
 - *Everyday*
- **Carpenter**
 - *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*
- **Engravers**
 - *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday through Saturday*
- **Gardener**
 - *Everyday*
- **Gunsmiths**
 - *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday*
- **Harpsicord Maker**
 - *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*
- **Joiner**
 - *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday*
- **Leather Breech Makers**
 - *Tuesday through Saturday*
- **Military Programs**
 - *Daily*
- **Palace Kitchen**
 - *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*
- **Printer**
 - *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*
- **Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers**
 - *Sunday through Wednesday, Saturday*

Editor.

Matthew Siepinski