

**THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER**  
for the week of October 11 - 17

**Apothecary** – They are finishing up info requested by PPLV for the teacher's manual for the electronic field trip "Potions, Ails, and Smallpox Tales". They are starting work on info for winter training and meeting with staff from Great Hopes about their domestic medicine program. The first meeting for the Task Force on guest surveys about the trades, chaired by Robin Kipps, met on Oct 8th.

**Armoury:**

**Blacksmith** – They are making repairs to the ox cart for Coach and Livestock, completing parts for the Cabinetmaker lathe, working on a coin press for the Curator of Numismatics, making andirons for Collections for Raleigh Tavern, forging smoker's tongs for Anderson display, forging a froe for a customer, repairing a door lock spindle for a customer, making firesteels for tinder boxes for Prentis, and starting on other materials for Prentis. They have completed a fireplace crane for the Museum of the Confederacy log building in Appomattox.

**Tin Shop** – They are fabricating two saucepans for Foodways, fabricating a set of kettles for the Shoe Shop, making gill cups, completing tinder boxes for Prentis, and making oil cans and mugs for the Carpenters.

**Artificer's Shop** – They will begin a number of pieces of officers' camp baggage, as well as handling the usual repairs and incidental leather items for use in the Historic Area.

**Basketmaker** – They continue to split white oak and will begin to weave up some baskets for Christmas sales at Prentis. **Please have a look at your baskets, and if they need repair, please bring them to the Basketmakers. Fraying rims need to be fixed ASAP. Thanks!**

**Brickmaker** – They are busy constructing their clamp, or kiln, where the bricks made this summer will be fired Nov 18-22. Work will include stacking the 27,000 or so bricks, encasing the green bricks first with previously fired bricks and then a layer of clay, and of course, stacking firewood.

**Cabinetmaker** – They continue work on the replication of two case pieces and an easy chair, as well as the upholstery for a half set of side chairs. The harpsichord makers are preparing materials for two new spinets and their presentation to the 2016 Working Wood Symposium. The treadle lathe is nearing completion and will be in operation.

**Carpenters** – They are returning to Great Hopes and will open to the public on October 13th. They will be building a work shelter, setting up planing benches, building a tool house, and making shingles.

**Coopers** – Due to low staffing, they have placed the restoration of casks mentioned previously on hold. They are continuing work on the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation order. They have a J.I. working with them once a week, and they have been training A.I.'s to work in the Cooperage as interpreters.

**Foodways** – They are working with Aleworks on a test batch of porter. They are also working on a series of pre-made punch mixes based on 18th-century recipes and practicing on some sugar work for next year's confections program. The next Brewing program will be October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Hopes Plantation** –

**Farming:** Now that the soil is drying out, they will commence plowing the bottom field. They then will break up the clods with an iron-toothed harrow, going over it 2-3 times. After sowing the clover, they will lightly harrow it in with a wood-toothed harrow. They also continue to pick some cotton.

**Domestic:** They will plant fall vegetables in the Slave Garden and will cook African-American foodways. As well, they will prepare a seasonal apple and winter squash pudding, and stews from their harvested produce. They have a great patch of radishes and turnips. Some of them were taken by ox cart to the photo shoot at the Market House. Other root vegetables will be used in the CW Taste Studio presentation on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, when Stef Dunn will be cooking with Chef Anthony Frank. They will be making brooms on Thursday.

**Gun Shop/Foundry** – They have finished the casting of the small bell that they were working on last week. It has now been passed to the Toolmaker for her to turn into a miniature bell cote like the one on the Market House. They are continuing to work on 2 flint locks for a pair of pistols and 1 for a rifle. The Foundry is finishing some Pewter taper sticks that they cast earlier, which will go to Prentis.

**Historic Garden** – Fortunately, the six inches of rain and much wind did not seem to displace or flood out their plants, but only kept the soil nice and damp for this week which lightens the watering workload. Sweet potatoes were pulled this week, yielding a bountiful harvest. Garlic, shallots, and onions have been planted in their place. This completes the fall garden with the exception of the broad beans, which will be planted in November. They and their plants are now enjoying the cooler weather and the moist soil left from the rain. Re-covering of the melon hoops is to happen soon, and sweet potatoes will be done curing in about two weeks, ready for tasting!

**Joiners** – They will be working on fitting the remaining collars on the ridge pole for General Washington's dining tent, building a small musket crate for the Market House, building a box for one of the reproductions of General Washington's folding field bed that the shop built last year, and the sign board for the Pitt store will be completed.

**Millinery** – They are still working on a gown, a cap, and a silk Sultanna robe to be used in an upcoming lecture. Miss Lily Riggenbach will be joining them for the next couple of weeks as a volunteer.

**Printers** – They are continuing the presswork for “The Articles of Confederation;” and when away from the press, they are assembling stitched books.

**Shoemaker** – Research and study is an ongoing process at the shoemakers. A major achievement in August was the detailed assessment of the Assadorian Shoe Collection. Acquired by the Foundation in the mid-1990s, the collection is made up of pieces recovered from various sites around New York City. Over four weeks, 940 shoes, boots, and fragments dating from c1670-1820 were catalogued and drawn by Master Al Saguto. Also in August, Journeyman Val Povinelli visited the Maine State Museum to examine shoes recovered from the wreck of the Defense, an American privateer that was scuttled during the Penobscot Expedition of 1779. When time permits, he will return to draw and pattern the shoes, expanding our range of documented styles. This month, Journeyman Brett Walker will be going up to Fort Ligonier in PA to assess the condition of that site's extensive collection of French and Indian War-era shoes.

**Silversmith** – They are working on various sorts of spoons and salt shovels, Gurney Bowls and a fluted bowl, a “skittle ball” teapot, a pair of patty pans, a small dram cup, Revere Beakers and raised beakers, a thistle cup, trade silver jewelry, rings and letter charms, a 12-inch Montieth, 2 copper vessels (one being raised by the

intern, the other by an apprentice), and ladles. The intern is scraping an ingot she cast and will be making a 17<sup>th</sup>-century bodkin.

Please note that at any given time, not all of these items will be being worked on, but all will be available to be seen and discussed with anyone who is interested.

**Tailors** – They are working on the mattresses and curtains for Washington’s camp bed and finishing details on the Marquees.

**Weaver** – They are working on the last of the double cloth – see picture below. This is a first to double the width of a piece of cloth. They are finishing Diaper (diamond shaped) fabric and preparing the specs for Linsey Wolsey. They are prepping for Dye day around Halloween. They are also preparing for the 25<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration in November for the Leicester Longwool. Stay tuned.



**Wheelwright** – The shop will be closed for maintenance Oct 12<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. During this time, Andrew De Lisle and Paul Zelesnikar are traveling to the UK on for two weeks. They will study original vehicles in Warwick and Cardiff and visit several shops. The main purpose of their trip is to be inducted into The Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights for the City of London as Yeoman of the Company. **There are only 15 positions, and they will be the only American working wheelwrights in the company.** Congratulations to them both!!

**Wigmaker** – They are constructing a Bob Wig, comprised of human and horse hair, which Debbie saw in Germany, a wiglet for one of the AI’s, and a hand-knotted base for a new wig for Richard Schuman (Patrick Henry). They also continue to do daily maintenance on wigs used by CW staff to support various programming (plays, Ghost Tours, Rev City, and commercials).