



**THE
MECHANICK'S
ADVISOR**

1/13/24

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Brickyard

Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday

This week in the Brickyard the crew has been moving cord wood and enjoying the company of the carpenters as they finish up our shed. With the new year comes the unstacking of the kiln which will soon be upon us and will occupy much of our early spring. Otherwise, Apprentice Madeleine is continuing her practice on the plaster panel. Starting with the scratch coat and waiting for it to set hard enough to apply the following coat. **We are also in the midst of hiring a new apprentice, so if you're seeking new zest for life check out Colonial Williamsburg Careers.** - *Madeleine Bolton*



Scratch coat of the third practice wall.



These are the keys that ensure the plaster is locked to the lath.

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Cabinetmaker

Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday

The cabinetmakers have been pushing forward with past projects, and John and Bill have been preparing for the upcoming Working Wood in the 18th Century Conference this January 25-28. Bill has finished the back of his chair, and he and John are producing demonstration parts to work on while onstage. John has also finished fitting the dividers in his cellaret project, and is now working on making the bottom. Tamsyn is working on her dovetails in the context of drawer making, all in preparation for constructing herself a tool chest of drawers.

- John Peeler



John's cellaret with installed dividers



Tamsyn's first drawer, with half-blind and through dovetails

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Farming

Ewing Field closed for winter season

An exciting new development for the Historic Farming Trade has occurred for the gourdseed-type corn that we have been growing for 40 years. This is a preferred corn of the 18th century Virginia as the white kernels make excellent meal and grits and the stalks are thick while the roots hold well in wind. Robert Beverly describes it as early as 1705 in his The History and Present State of Virginia and it is mentioned fairly often in the 18th century diaries and journals of farmers. Anson Mills- a 21st century stone ground gristmill specializing in heirloom grains has requested seed corn from us because of these characteristics. This seed will be distributed to modern organic farmers and then ground at the mill. We are hoping that the gourdseed corn will someday be available on guest's tables at the Taverns one day. An old saying for preserving living things is: To save it, You must eat it. This approach will ensure the survival of this rare seed because it is being used beyond museums.



Ed in a corn field in mid-2010's



An ear of gourdseed corn

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Fife and Drums

The adult staff members are catching up on some much-needed administrative work during the winter months. We unveiled our new curriculum for Corpsmembers, progressed in planning Drummer's Call, and investigated some exciting performance opportunities for 2024. In class, we are working with the Corps on fundamentals and improving technique. The adult staff are leaving on Monday for a trip to Nashville, TN to play for the American Bus Association Conference. Lastly, congratulations to Knox Seabolt for becoming the new Fife Section Leader and Andrew Reid for passing up to Private!

- Rebecca Sterner



An instructor helps a recruit as he tries to pass off a tune.

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Milliner and Mantua-Maker

Thursday through Saturday

We apologize for our silence during December! In keeping with 18th century tradition, the weeks leading up to Christmas, as well as the following 12 days of Christmas, were extremely busy for milliners. This year's five-week wedding program focused on wedding millinery - "white millinery" - for the bride. We made a suit (matching set) of gauze millinery lined in silk (a cloak, a muff, and a stomacher), and began another, which currently includes a silk satin cloak and a matching petticoat. Rebecca has begun a coordinating hat, and other new pieces will be added as time allows.

In between our year-end evaluations, Janea has been working on a new shift, Kate has begun a printed cotton child's frock, and Rebecca is looking forward to finally finishing up her stays.

In important and exciting shop news, congratulations go to Kate for completing level two of her apprenticeship!

- Rebecca Godzik



Kate's beautiful "puckering" on the stomacher, against the trim of Rebecca's cloak.

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Shoemaker

Open Daily

Nicole is finishing up some repairs and is working on patterning half boots for her apprenticeship. Victoria continues work on a pair of dancing pumps for her apprenticeship. Val is beginning a pair of common shoes for one of the gardeners.

- Valentine Pavinelli



A patch repair for one of our tradesmen.

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Silversmith

Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

The silversmiths are busy as ever with the silver trays. Megan has soldered the rim onto her first tray with Bobbie's guidance. Chris is chasing in the details of her tray. Bobbie is stoning hers and is filing another. George is chasing in the outlines to three more trays. Preston is raising up a large silver bowl for a client as well as multiple small bowls.

- Megan Cantwell



Megan's first tray.



Chris chasing in the details of the bouge on her tray.

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Wheelwright

Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday

The Market Cart is ready! This vehicle was a common sight here in Williamsburg in the 18th c., with farmers and enslaved carters moving goods about the Capital City.

- Paul Zelesnikar



W.H. Pyne's Microcosm image of the Market Cart.



Our Market Cart.

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Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Apothecary**
 - Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
- **Blacksmith**
 - Daily
- **Carpenter**
 - Sunday through Thursday
- **Engraver**
 - Sunday, Monday, Wednesday through Saturday
- **Gardener**
 - Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday
- **Gunsmith**
 - Sunday through Thursday
- **Harpsichord Maker**
 - Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday
- **Joiner**
 - Sunday through Thursday
- **Leather Beech Maker**
 - Daily
- **Military Programs**
 - Daily
- **Palace Kitchen**
 - Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday
- **Printer**
 - Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Saturday
- **Tailor**
 - Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
- **Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers**
 - Sunday through Wednesday, Saturday

Editor.

Matthew Siepinski