

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

For March 31 – April 6

Armoury:

Blacksmith – “Spring has treated the Blacksmiths well this week with less rain and brighter days, and they have a long list of projects to show for it. Assembling a saber, banding hubs for vehicles large and small, clouts, locks, stamps, a sifter for the Garden, pattens, a hammer for the Cabinetmakers, slide bolts, pliers, and nails are blooming at the base of the anvil.”

Tin Shop – “Newly-whitewashed walls have made for an ever-more radiant room, a pedestal even, for the high art of smiting that tinned iron. Come in this week for coffee pots and funnels (not related), as well as a glistening new lantern.”

Farming – “The first plowing of Prentis Field is finished. Last week, school groups chopped up the exposed clover with hoes. This week, another plowing happens crossways to cut the soil in the opposite direction. Any staff that want to try it can come out on Tuesday, April 2, 2-4pm; Wednesday, April 3, 1:30-3pm; Thursday, April 4, 10:30am-12pm. Wear your costume or modern clothes. See you then!”



School kids hoe up clover

Cabinetmaker – “Hello from the Anthony Hay shop! The Harpsichord Makers have been doing the Harpsichord shuffle. The instrument Ed Wright built four years ago needed the quills replaced. The current instrument was moved to the wareroom to clear off the other workbench so Melanie could work on the harpsichord lid.

“Bill is wiping down the last steps of linseed oil finish for his music stand. Brian is working on the pivot blocks and batons for the walnut and mahogany tea tables.”

Gunsmith – “Here in the Gunsmith Shop, we're very happy to have Jeff Geyer back, live and in person (for a limited time), helping us out while the search for a new Apprentice continues. As for the projects, they continue with Richard wrapping up the set of silver pistols. The case is completed, and all the accoutrements to go inside it are also finished. Darrin cast brass gun mounts again and continues forging a gun barrel and building another rifle lock.”

Milliner and Mantua-Maker – “This week, we helped teach The William and Mary Costume History Class. Professor Patricia Wesp has long brought her students to see our work and gain insight into the trades that made the clothes that they study or render in their theatrical designs. After the class had a chance to experience the Shop and learn about Milliners and their trade in the front room, Rebecca Starkins continued the conversation in our middle room, where she discussed construction of 18th-century gowns and ball gowns specifically.”



Public Leather Works – "The Public Leather Works continues our run of accoutrements for our colleagues in Military Programs for their new portrayal of the 80th Regiment of Foot. Jan examined a cartridge pouch and bayonet scabbard in CW's own Collection from which to base those items on. The bayonet scabbards continue apace, while he has finished his prototype cartridge pouch and given it to Erik Goldstein in Collections for examination before moving on to production."

Silversmith – “Bobbie continues working on her spice casters, nearing completion on the several components that will make one of the assembled pieces. Chris has been working on rings and preparation work for a teapot. Lynn continues cutting the John White Weroan printing plate. Preston has been working on several small bowls and a tankard. George has been raising a mug and working on spoons. Parker continues working on his silver beaker and a Jefferson cup. William has cut his chatelaine and is producing the finishing components, as well as working on letter charms.”



William's chatelaine hook