



**THE
MECHANICK'S
ADVISOR**

1/27/24

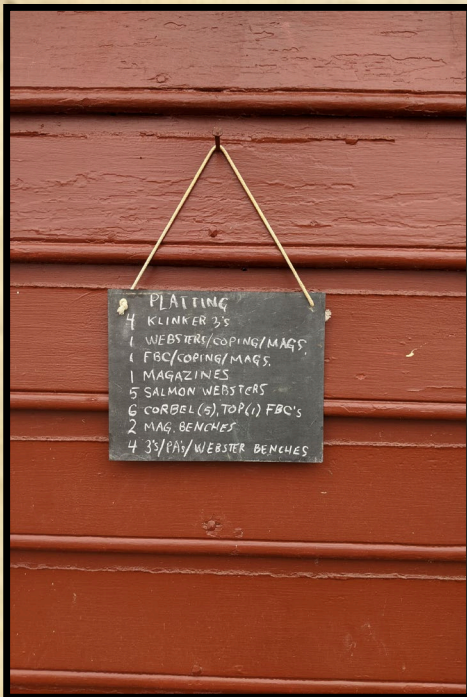
*Colonial
Williamsburg®*

Brickyard

Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday

This week in the Brickyard the crew began to undertake the much-anticipated task of unstacking the kiln. Be sure to visit us during these next few weeks to watch us unstack bricks to, you guessed it, restack them. We've got a particularly interesting time ahead of us given the complexity of the kiln itself.

- Madeleine Bolton



This chalkboard outlines the contents of each course.

We've already unstacked some First Baptist Bricks!

*Colonial
Williamsburg®*

Cooper

Tuesday through Saturday

Every once in a while, the Coopers are asked to take on a project that doesn't fit neatly into our purview, nor the purview of our fellow woodworking shops. We were recently asked if we could produce some punch strainers for use as display pieces in a few places around town as replacements for items that have worn out or gone missing. The punch strainers are wood, but definitely not cooperage. However, we took on the task and believe the results are pretty good.

- Jonathan Hallman



These are punch strainers - the one on the left is the one we were given to work from, while the other three are the strainers that we produced in the Coopers Shop.

*Colonial
Williamsburg®*

Founder

Tuesday through Saturday

Last week the foundry finally undertook the much-awaited casting of the sock mandrel for the Small's plow project. The pouring shank made by Apprentice Blacksmith Broadus was perfect for the job. Many thanks to Journeyman Wheelwright Murphy and Apprentice Engraver Will for lending us some extra hands in the process! The clean-up work is underway, and hopefully it serves its purpose well. As far as other projects, we're continuing with many we've mentioned before, cast some new leaf cakes for the tin plate workers and, as always, musket balls for the musket range.

- Leanne Bellouny



Lead cakes: used vs. fresh



Sock Mandrel pour

*Colonial
Williamsburg®*

Farming

Farmer Marshall Scheetz is being trained how to drive oxen by CW's ox driver- Darin Durham of the Rare Breeds section of the Coach and Livestock department. Oxen were the primary draft animals for 18th century farmers just ahead of horses. They have superior traction in muddy or rough terrain; are tough and hardy; and good foragers in cut over forests. Every farmer had cattle, even if but a few, Train steers to work and you have power!

- *Ed Schultz*



*Colonial
Williamsburg®*

Musket Range

We got to train with Military Programs for shooting the cannon. Alex, Doug, and Andy are now cannon qualified. They will be augmenting Military Programs staff for special events. In other news the Musket Range finished up 2023 with our second-best year for attendance. We can't wait to see what 2024 brings us.

- Jeffery Thomas



Milliner and Mantua-Maker

Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday

In between end-of-year evaluations and beginning-of-the-year goal-writing, the milliners and mantua-makers are off to a busy start for 2024. To better represent visually the presence of Agga, one of the women Margaret Hunter enslaved, we've created laundry bags and baskets filled with linens and other items that we know Agga was skilled at mending and washing. In keeping with the anniversary celebrations this year, we're also updating the garments we have on display to reflect the fashions of the first quarter of 1774. Several new items are required to supplement our representation of the "current" trends, so Rebecca is working on covering a hat in silk and spotted gauze. Janea just finished a new wool bedgown and has embarked on a shift. We're also preparing for the arrival of a new NIAHD intern and look forward to introducing another aspiring historian to our trades.

- Rebecca Godzik



*Colonial
Williamsburg®*

Wigmaker

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

The wigmakers were busy working on wigs and hair styling for the filming/photo shoot in the House of Burgesses and Governor's Council Chamber last week. We will now move on to regular maintenance work as programming takes a pause for the Winter months and everyone brings their hair in for service. Benton has begun working on a set of Buckles for HI Alex Pena. Edith has started new bases for wigs that she will work on in collaboration with our volunteer staff. Debbie has finished construction of Apprentice Leather Breeches Maker Wilson's wig.

- Debra Turpin



*Colonial
Williamsburg®*

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