

# *THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER*

## *August 12, 2022*

### *Anthony Hay Shop:*

***Cabinetmaker*** – Jeremy has made good progress on his hanging cupboard this week. Shelves are nearly complete, and parts for the face frame are being roughed out and prepared. On the side, Jeremy has been spending a lot of time this year researching marquetry designs and techniques used throughout Europe in the 18th century. Next month, he will be headed to California to participate in a French marquetry class, which will allow him to further develop his skills and understanding of this decorative art form.

Recently, Bill had the opportunity to build an odd side project for the Cabinet Shop. He was asked to build a roofing tile mold for our Brickyard. The Brickmakers are looking at adding this new shape to their collection of things they can produce. It was an interesting change from the usual furniture projects around the Shop.



**The Cabinetmaker and Harpsichord-maker are open Daily.**

***Apothecary*** – Business as usual at the Pasteur-Galt Apothecary. Sharon has been busy updating our master list of antique apothecary jars and their corresponding receipts, making intriguing new discoveries about the formulations inside. Mark has been doing something inscrutable, which one can only assume means he's compounding the legendary Theriaca Andromache (opium-free.) Passers-by might catch a glimpse of Margaret's new vinegar of roses infusing in the shop window; she would ask them not to tap on the glass as the rose petals scare easily. Looking forward to our next Workshop on Tuesday - three more to go!

**The Apothecary Shop will be open Tuesday (11:30-5:00), Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.**

### *Armoury:*

***Blacksmith*** – There has been so much afoot in the Blacksmith Shop that it makes one's head spin! This week, we have photos to supplement our words. Our dear Apprentice Owen moved on to greener pastures at the start of the month, or perhaps I should say yards. He is now one of the Carpenters and can bring his

hammer arm to bear on nails in a whole new way. Though he will be but a block away, his infectious giggle will be missed.



Josh has banded his first wheel hub for the Wheelwrights and is eagerly waiting for the second. Rather than sit on his hands, though, he has continued work on hinges for the Cabinetmakers and made a new hammer for himself, as well.

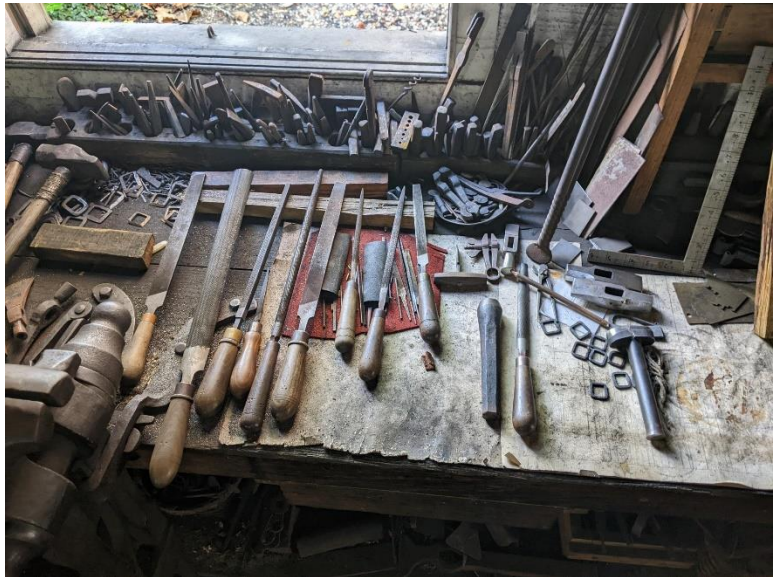


Broadus has bailed on us, by which we, of course, mean that he has finished his ears and bail for a copper kettle and has started on a set of slide bolts.

Alex has returned from the frigid north, with a need to axe a question or two and has had suspicion ladled on him for this new interest. In order to get a grasp on things, he made a pair of tongs to match.



Aislinn has buckled down for satchel buckles. Her work remains a cut above, and so she's been given a lead cutting tool to replace for the shooting range. A number of bench hammers have also been filed and finished and wait at her bench for handles.



Mark stands at a fork in the road, or should we say, on the workbench. Eating forks for those who refuse to use their fingers, and pintles for a gate are his concern.



Last of all, Ken, whose tidy work contrasts with his overgrown workbench. Through the tangle of iron, we challenge the viewer to identify his most recent projects, and to spot the visitor who has made a home in this deep and dark forest of metal.



As ever we say, without any delay, that all's well that falls well at the foot of the anvil.

**The Blacksmith Shop will be open Daily.**

***Tinsmith* – The Tin Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.**

***Brickmaker*** – This week in the yard, the Brickmaking presses, on as we come to terms with having a smaller crew for the last few weeks of production. Despite our sorrows, we are quite pleased with what has been achieved thus far!

Otherwise, this week, we dealt once again with the trials and tribulations which come with heavy rainfall and a not-so-flood-proof treading pit. After some splashing in the puddles, we faced our reality and did what we could. A dower last day for our Casuals, for sure, but fun is always had in the Brickyard.



**The Brickyard will be open Sunday through Thursday, weather permitting.**

**Carpenter** – This week in the Carpenters Yard, we are continuing our efforts to floor-in the loft space of the Brickyard drying house. We've gotten to a point in the floor where we can actually stand up. When we start the process, we have to put boards up against the edge of the rafters, meaning there is no option but to crouch down. Later, as we move closer to the center of the loft space, more height is available. We are now at a point that anyone under 5'9" can stand up fully. It's nice to stand up. We should be done flooring by August 19th or 20th. We then move on to the shingles. Stop in and say hi and see what we're up to.

**The Carpenter's Yard will be open Tuesday through Saturday, weather permitting.**

**Colonial Garden** – August can be a challenging month in the Historic Garden; the high temperatures and extreme humidity often cause problems for some of our plants, especially those that prefer a dry Mediterranean climate. Others, including several of our native wildflowers, are just hitting their stride. The Garden also starts to show a few bare spots, as annual vegetables and flowers planted earlier in the year mature and are harvested. This week, we were able to send baskets and wheelbarrows of produce to Historic Foodways for use at the Palace Kitchen, as well as the Armoury Kitchen. Our harvest included: potatoes, turnips, carrots, tomatoes, paw paw fruit, parsley, thyme, sage, squash, onions, okra, cucumbers, and hot peppers. In addition to edible fruits and vegetables, we are also experiencing a bountiful harvest of pocket melons. These petite melons have a wonderful fragrance but no flavor and were grown in the gardens of the wealthy as a novelty. Their perfumy scent is the ideal solution to the less-desirable odors of summer in Virginia. The last of the corn was harvested in the American Indian Garden; and in the Sankofa



Vegetables harvested in the Historic Garden

Heritage Garden, the sorghum plants have reached an amazing height. This week, we bid a fond farewell to our Summer Intern, Kira. Thank you for all your work in the Garden this season! Our thoughts in the Historic Garden are now turning to fall, and we have started to sketch out our next Garden plan. We will begin

seeding cool-weather vegetables this coming week. Flowers newly in bloom in the Garden include tuberose (*Agave amica*), New York iron weed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*), blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*), and cypress vine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*).



Pocket melons, grown for fragrance rather than taste



Barbara from Historic Foodways with a wheelbarrow of produce for the Armoury Kitchen



A pot of tuberoses blooming in the Historic Garden

**The Colonial Garden will be open Daily, (open 12-5 p.m. on Tuesday), weather permitting.**

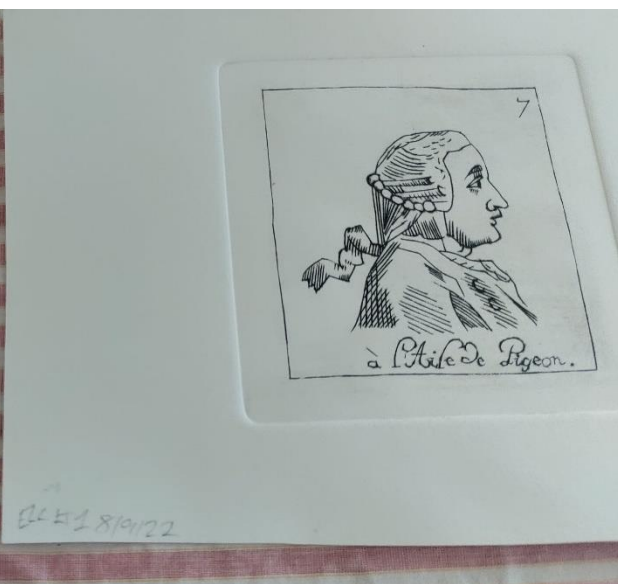
***Cooper*** – While there is still a lot of work to be done in correcting the proportions of the staves before it is ready to truss, the tobacco hogshead is progressing. It's the first time in almost three decades that we've made a cask this large.



**The Cooper Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.**

***Engraver*** – Hello everyone. This week in the Engraving Shop, the Interns have been working away on their small prints of the wig designs. They have taken two different approaches with it. The prints shown are test prints, and we will soon be printing a few more as they finish them. William and Lynn have been catching up on a few things and continuing on their current projects, also planning out for next year.

Lynn and Danni have had an urgent project to tend to at the end of this week. Adding a name to a plaque for Coach and Livestock. An interesting one. It's not engraved, so we broke out the paints and dusted off the paint brushes. Thank goodness Danni has a very steady hand.





**The Engraving Shop will be open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.**

**Foodways** – The Foodways Staff will be at the Palace Kitchen Sunday through Thursday.

**Foundry** – The Foundry will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday (11:30-5:00).

**Gunsmith** – In the Gunsmith Shop, Darrin has been re-working a blue painted trade gun that the American Indian Interpreters brought in. The blue paint was scraped off, stock shape refined, and rust removed. The gun was given a new coat of red milk paint and looked great. Darrin has been doing research on Minutemen and Riflemen from Culpeper County, Virginia. Richard has been doing some barrel welding and forging screws for the rifle he is building. Brad has been forging iron butt pieces, refining his technique. One will become a casting pattern for casting the brass version. The patterns could be made of wood, but iron is far more durable. Study materials have been numerous, but here are a few: JHAT (*Journal of Historical Armsmaking Technology*), vol. 1 & 5; *Colonial Riflemen in the American Revolution*; *Great British Gunmakers*, vol. 1 & 2.

**The Gunsmith Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.**

**Historic Farming** – Prentis Field will be open Tuesday through Saturday, weather permitting.

**Joinery** – Good Day, Everyone, and Hello from the Joiner Shop! It's been an eventful week. On Monday, we took a study trip up to E.T. Moore's in Richmond. If you haven't been to their facility, it's like Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, but for woodworkers. The business was founded in 1969 and is run by three generations of Moore's. Mr. Taylor Moore, Jr., showed us around their operation. It's a given for us in the Historic Trades that tools and materials go hand in hand. Our work becomes a challenge without the quality materials, and E.T. Moore has been supplying CW with quality, reclaimed long leaf Southern Yellow Pine for years.



The Star marks the showroom, offices, and manufacturing facility.





Inside one of the cavernous storage buildings



Candy land



Some samples of the materials they process, comparing how small the growth rings and how large the boards can be.



It may be hard to tell for the picture, but this is only half of this saw. You can just see the motor under the I-beam. There's a track and carriage that holds the log while it's fed through the reciprocating blades. In one pass, Mr. Moore can saw out four boards at a time.



The visit wouldn't be complete without touring the antique car gallery. Scott standing by a 1934 Ford Model A roadster. **The Joinery will be open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.**

***Military Programs*** – Military Interpretation at the Guardhouse is open Daily. Our “Military Activities” at 10 a.m. will consist of either a public drill or our new recruiting program. At 2 p.m. each day, we will have our “Discussion of Military Topics”, where one of our staff members will be discussing a subject of military history and answer questions from the Guests. Musket demonstrations are generally dependent on staff numbers of that day, but typically between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, we will be doing an infantry demonstration at 4:20 p.m. for our “Necessity of Order in Battle” program. We are not doing cannon demonstration at the present time.

***Milliner and Mantua-maker*** – On Saturday, we bid farewell to Intern Rachel, who is now off to enjoy a semester of study in England. We wish her all the best and will miss having her as a member of our team. As previous submissions have noted, part of her summer has been devoted to research for the Bray School

project. Specifically, she's been tracking down information about the households from which the students came and trying to learn as much as possible about who they were as individuals and about what they were learning at the school. As an essential life skill, sewing was one of the cornerstones of a Bray School education, and the girls would have undoubtedly needed a place to store their projects and tools. In memory of Nancy, who was enslaved in the Charlton household, Rachel constructed a workbag, like one the young girls might have stitched. The pattern and construction were taken from the 1789 *Instructions for Cutting Out Apparel for the Poor*, with the personalized label printed by Bookbinder Intern Mary Hannah. It's a poignant reminder of a girl's desire to claim the work inside as her own, and we hope to create many more just like it with the names of each girl we know to have been a Bray student.

Meanwhile, we're enjoying the company of our new Junior Interpreter, Miss Portia, who has been joining us a couple of days a week. She's already finished a handkerchief and is now practicing her hemstitches on a workbag similar to Nancy's that she'll be able to use to store her own projects. Janea has been working on finishing up a blue sprigged baby gown. This is one of several projects we're currently working on for CDC. Kate is two panels away from completing the stitching on her stays. Rebecca has completed alterations on a jacket for Bindery Intern Mary Hannah and is working on a blog post about Milliner Catherine Rathell's entrepreneurial business practices.



**The Milliner and Mantua-maker will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.**

***Music*** – Greetings from The Governor’s Musick! Karol and Kyle gave their presentation on patriotic music in the Hennage this week on Tuesday, and Jenny, Karol, and Amy present Jenny’s program on Catch Club culture on Friday in the Hennage at 4:30. We will continue to present programming in the Hennage most Fridays at 4:30 p.m. for the rest of the summer and for the fall (please check the Museums calendar for dates and programs). On August 19th, Kyle, Amy, and Karol will be appearing at the gala opening of the Art Museums exhibit on musical instruments owned by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Kyle will kick off the evening with a truly special demonstration of the organized piano (sort of a piano/organ hybrid). Our regular concert series and Raleigh programming don’t start up again until late September, so we are all working on researching and preparing our programming for that time.

Kyle continues to transcribe Edward Jones’ *A Dissertation on the Instruments of the Welsh*. Jenny is continuing her research into the music of enslaved Americans, reading *World of a Slave*, and *Banjo Roots and Branches*. Karol continues her research into political rhetoric in music, reading *Poetry Wars*. Brady has been dusting off his research into the musical repertoire mentioned in the *Virginia Gazette* advertisement of music for sale in the Williamsburg Post Office in 1772.

Best wishes to all.

### ***Printer and Bookbinder:***

***Printing Office*** – We have gone back to printing the remaining three forms for *Every Man His Own Doctor*. Instead of using our newest press, we are using the 1950’s reproduction press, allowing us to use the smaller and newer press to be used with Guests in our Friday morning Workshop. Participants set some type and print a copy of the Declaration of Independence to take home. Our last Workshop will be Friday, September 2nd.

**The Printing Office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday (11:30-5:00), and Saturday.**

***Bindery*** – The Bookbindery will be open Sunday (11:30-5:00), Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

***Public Leather Works*** – The Public Leather Works will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

***Shoemaker*** – Nicole is re-soleing a pair of shoes for William Fleming and adding new heel plates, as well. Nicole is also making a pair of domed square toe shoes for apprenticeship points. Victoria is working on the second of her first pair of slippers, which will contribute towards her apprenticeship, as well. Val is halfway through repairs on a pair of shoes for Tim Logue. He also continues work on a new pair of common shoes for Steve Delisle.

Nicole is exploring Colonial Williamsburg’s subscription databases (especially the newest additions). Victoria also continues work on her September 14th Hennage talk, and research on infant shoes. Val is preparing for the Shop’s next Workshop, working on a shoulder knot for a special project, and is currently sewing together a pair of infant shoes. He is presently embroidering the uppers.

**The Shoemakers will be at the Armoury on Sunday, Monday (11:30-5:00), Thursday, and Saturday.**

***Silversmith*** – As always, the Silversmiths are busily working on their lists of projects. Tam is in the early stages of polishing the silver jewelry she’s made. Megan is continuing to raise her silver bowls with instruction from Preston and Bobbie. She has also pierced bottle tickets and has prepared many silver rings for soldering. Chris is working on chasing in the silver tray body and filing the cast feet from the Foundry. She has also been working on mourning rings. Bobbie is continuing the cleanup of the soldered tray and feet. In addition to

instructing Megan on how to raise her bowls, Preston is also working on his chased bowls and polishing a mountain of jewelry for the shop. George is working on the gold mote spoon and drawing the silver ingots into wire for spoon blanks. Bobbie is gathering information and notes concerning James Craig in preparation for a research trip in the fall.



Megan's stack of rings ready to solder



Bobbie's tray in progress



Bottle tickets ready for polishing

**The Silversmith Shop will be open Sunday through Wednesday, Thursday (11:30-5:00), and Saturday.**

*Tailor* – Most trades in the 18th century not only made their given objects, but also altered and maintained them. Because most garments were more valuable in their materials than in their labor, it was not uncommon for even the humble to receive careful mending. Many tailors earned considerable profit from the work. While the making of well-fit and structured garments was beyond the skill and available time of many housewives, mending was a common task. Mending extended the useful life of the garment, sometimes restoring it to like-new condition, sometimes leaving identifiable scars. In May of 1774, an indentured servant named Benjin Parrot ran away in Prince George County wearing, amongst other clothes, "a white Broadcloth Coat lately turned, a Lead coloured Cloth Waistcoat, white Russia Drill Breeches darned at the knees." Turning

is to disassemble a garment and reverse the face of the cloth; darning is to fill holes by reweaving the cloth with thread and needle. In surviving original clothing, repairs tell of the object's use and care; note the darning in the shoulder and gusset of the shirt in the picture. Master Hutter has been mending a blue coat of woolen fabric made here at CW many years ago; note the several areas of darning and patching.

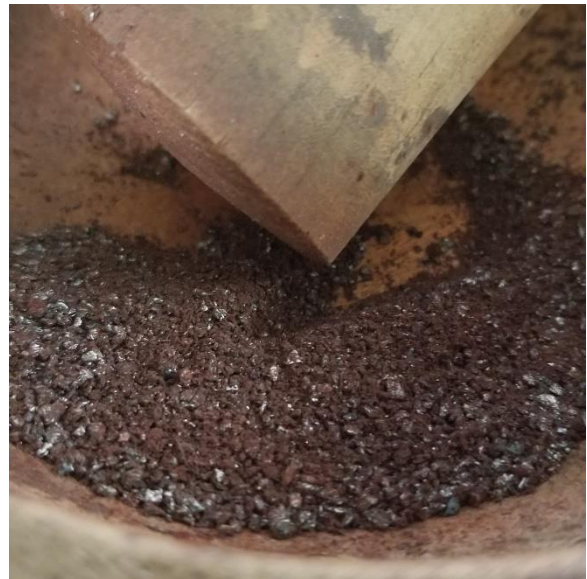


**The Tailor Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Tuesday, August 16th, the Tailors will present, "Are you hot in those clothes?" Come explore how the right clothing helped 18th-century Virginians beat the extreme summer heat and humidity.**

*Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing* – Most of our Trades can connect to each other in some form. We may use similar materials, make things for each other, or otherwise have something that can link us together. While the Milliners, Tailors, Farmer, and sheep all have clear connections to what the Spinners, Weavers, and Dyers do, some are a bit surprising! Let's try the Apothecary. We use something in our dyes that the Apothecary sells, a handy little bug called cochineal! The female cochineal beetles, found in Central and South America, are sessile (a word which here means "they don't move on their own"); as a defense mechanism, they create a coating on their exoskeleton that makes them not taste very good to their predators. That same coating gives us carmine dye. In the 18th century, dyers could use this to create rich scarlet reds on fabrics, while consumers could purchase them from the Apothecary for the purposes of making food or makeup coloring. We still use these helpful creatures today and call the dye they create by names like Natural Red 4 or E120. As for our Shop, we'll keep using them to bring a little more color into the world, one scarlet skein at a time, and encourage you to see where else you can find them around our grounds.



(Photo of Apothecary drawer by Margaret Perry, Apprentice Apothecary, used with permission.)



**The Weaving Shop will be open Tuesday through Saturday.**

*Wheelwright* – Progress being made on Prince George Street! Master Wheelwright Paul is close to finishing his cart repair for the Powder Magazine. After knocking together the body, Paul replaced flooring and standards with fresh material and clenched nails. Check out his progress, either in the included photos or in person! The first of the hubs for the Apprentice handcart project has been successfully morticed and sent off to the Blacksmiths for its iron bands. One step closer to spoke installation! In research-related news, analysis of James Small's *A Treatise on Ploughs* and paint-adjacent topics continue.





**The Wheelwright Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.**

*Wigmaker* – This past week, Edith, Intern Lexie, and Volunteer Marie held down the Shop as Benton was away, and Debbie was engaged in different training sessions. Maintenance slowed down a bit (knock on wood) despite the rising temperatures. Edith is nearing completion of Mr. Jefferson's wig. She's just waiting on a delivery of thread needed to weave the last two rows of hair. She has also begun practicing the delicate technique of the circular netting for cauls. Lexie has begun work on a second hairpiece, to compliment the one she just completed. When Benton returns to the Shop, he will continue to work on weaving rows for the Brigadier wig. Debbie has started a new circular netting for future use. Research continues into Marie Antoinette's hair and men's hair styles. As always, please feel free to reach out with any tonsorial needs or questions.

**The Wig Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.**

*The Mechanick's Adviser* is a publication of the Colonial Williamsburg Department of Historic Trades & Skills.

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