

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

June 3, 2022

Apothecary – The Apothecary Shop will be open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Armoury:

Blacksmith – Our work at the Blacksmith Shop remains busy as ever. Mark and Broadus have turned their keen eyes towards the blade, both for the Military. The former making sabers, of Potter's and Hunter's variety, for fighting men. And the latter making Billhooks, for fighting bramble. Owen works on forks, turning black to bright with the file. Alex and Josh find unity in making dividers, with which all may be precisely, but not accurately, measured. Such measuring is useful in making three knuckle hinges, as Josh also makes. Aislinn is fastening down the last of the buckles. And finally, Ken's pile of chisels grows still taller. As we say, all's well that falls at the base of the anvil.

The Blacksmith Shop will be open Daily.

Tinsmith – The Tin Shop hosted another successful Workshop on Wednesday. (We even taught Blacksmith Apprentice Broadus how to make a cellar stick!) Steve has been preparing the watering cans for shipping to their new homes in other museums. Joel has been making cups for Prentis and researching public store records out of Richmond. Jenny has been working on a candle box for a 6th-level project, patterning a document box for a 4th-level project, and developing a pattern and method for making a narrow document box copied off of one that was presented to Benjamin Franklin in 1753 with an honorary Harvard diploma. Her research for her apprenticeship paper on the prices of tinware also has led to tinware in records at the College of William & Mary.

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

Anthony Hay Shop – The Cabinetmaker and Harpsichord-maker are open Sunday (11:30am-5:00pm) and Monday through Saturday.

Brickmaker – This week saw the Brickyard's crew at full force as our illustrious summer crew has joined us in the venture to make bricks. Naturally, they found themselves moving copious amounts of firewood, but such is the life of a Brickmaker. With Apprentice Nick as their leader, they've taken to their condition with vigor despite the clay, sweat, and proximity to Carpenters. Yet, even they have benefitted from our new numbers as it means they have a very nice firewood wall to line their space as our crew works tirelessly to move wood.

Otherwise, this week, we took two of our wheelbarrows to the Wheelwrights for a checkup and used the surviving one to haul some tubs back to the Yard. The Coopers were happy to donate two tubs to the betterment of our feet as we needed more to clean off the clay that has surely seeped into our souls. As our first full production week comes to a close, we were happy to have a space to place our sundried bricks as we prepare for our first building to be raised in the coming weeks.



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

Carpenter – This week in the Carpenter’s Yard, we placed and cut the laps for the Brickyard drying house joists. We discovered that we might be better off making two more joists. After the joist laps were cut, we started on the rafters. As of Friday morning, we have six of the seventeen rafter pairs laid out or cut already. We plan on sawing one more piece of pine to get both remaining joists. After those two are cut and installed, we can focus on finishing the remaining rafter pairs and start worrying about the gable end studs. We still are aiming for a mid-June raising.



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

Colonial Garden – This week, the Garden has battled the heat and dry soil. The last rain we had was not enough, so the hope is that tonight, the rains will quench the soil deeply, giving the arms of the Gardeners a day or two off from carrying the watering cans. The citrus trees once again grace the Garden with branches full of young fruit. Many thanks to the Blacksmiths’ loan of the two iron bars used to move the plants, Coach and Livestock for moving the plants back and forth seasonally to our site from the Quarterpath greenhouse, and to Scott who watches over our citrus all winter. A shout out to Apprentice Marc and Summer Intern, Kira,

for helping repot and move the trees into position on a very hot day. No one got stuck by a thorn or at least didn't complain if they did.

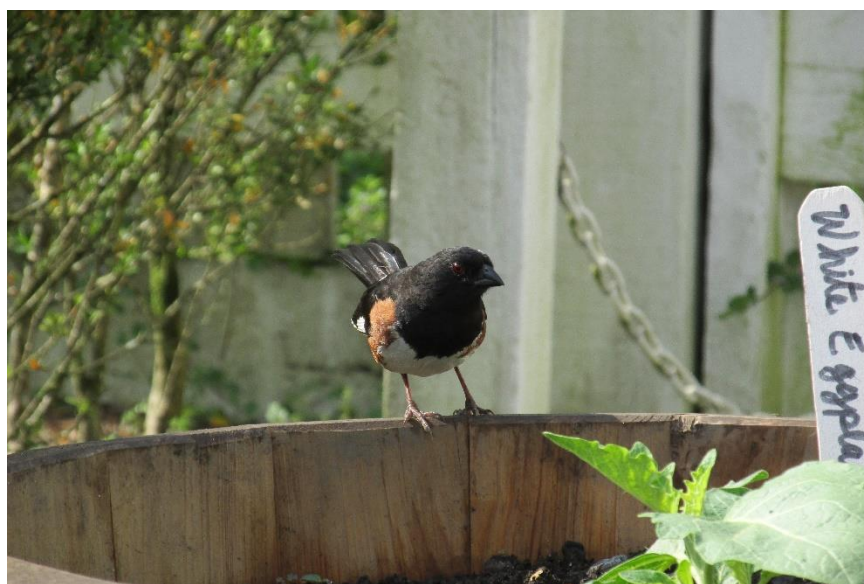
We have emptied the front hotbed and will plant pocket melons for the summer. Soft neck garlic was harvested and replaced with African marigolds. The Welsh onions were deadheaded as well as all the flowerpots sitting about the Garden. Melons have germinated as well as the ground nuts. Almost all the Garden is in, so it is time for a round of seeds to be planted of both annuals and perennials. These take the place of harvested summer crops and replace some favorites that we lost over time.

In bloom are the milkweeds, which are the favorite food of Monarch butterflies. Such a beautiful bloom with a wonderful scent. The Carolina Lupine, Calendula, and Indian Cress are at their finest. The pole beans are climbing, and both the Sankofa Heritage Garden and American Indian Garden are planted and coming along nicely. If you get a chance, come by for a visit to see what has been planted.

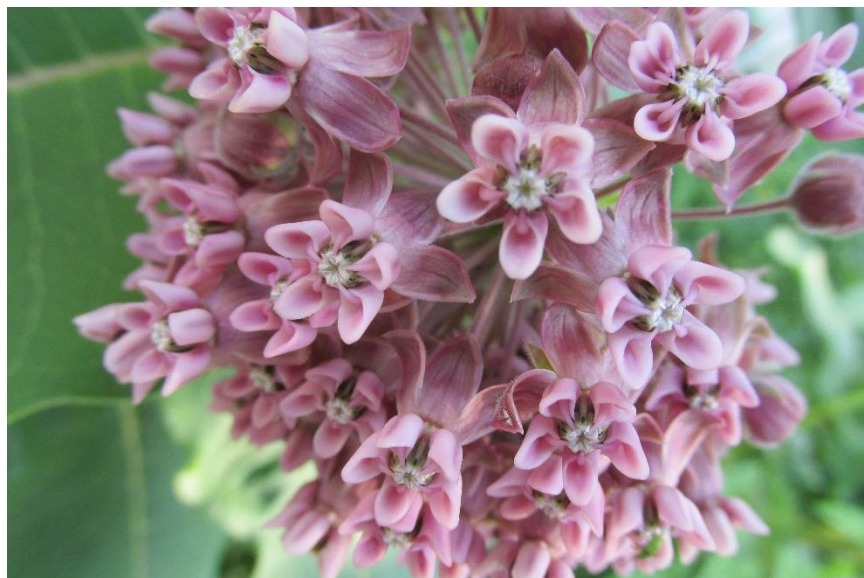
A little bit of mending of rows that failed for some reason, and of course, pulling the weeds, the one plant we can count on to make a showing.



Monarch on milkweed



The ever hungry "Little Man" Towhee. Birds are a help in the Garden, consuming not only what they beg from the Gardeners, they eat their weight in bugs and worms.



Close of milkweed flower

The Colonial Garden will be open Daily, weather permitting.

Cooper – The Cooper Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday (11:30am-5:00pm).

Engraver – The Engraving Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Foodways – The Foodways Staff will be at the Palace Kitchen Sunday, Monday, and Thursday through Saturday.

Foundry – We’ve been busy working away here at the Foundry! Journeyman Mike has gotten the harpsicord hinges ready for drilling and assembly, so they are well on their way to being finished. Apprentices Drew and Leanne have made their first sand molds for silver—a bunch of tray feet for the Silversmiths—which will be ready to pour next week. They’ve also be rehabilitating some small pewter cups which came from the old Fifth Ave shop. Some will be highly polished, and others will stay brushed, but they’ll all end up in the Engraving Shop! Word on the street is that the Musket Range is reaching all-time highs, so we finished out our week by pouring some more musket balls to keep them stocked!





The Foundry will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Gunsmith – The Gunsmith Shop will be open Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Historic Farming – A big breakthrough for Historic Farming - the 18th-century variety of wheat that we grow, Red May, is now being used by the CW Inn to make pizza dough on the Social Terrace! It's Farm to Table!



Red May wheat dough

Prentis Field will be open Tuesday through Saturday, weather permitting.

Joinery – The Joinery will be open Tuesday (11:30am-5:00pm), and Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Milliner and Mantua-maker – This week, we welcomed back our spring NIAHD student, Rachel, as our Summer Intern. We're thrilled to have her join us for what promises to be a busy and exciting next few

months! She's already finished one petticoat and has begun another as part of our "Gown in a Day" program preparations. Throughout her internship, she'll be spending one day a week continuing her work with the Bray School project, researching the students and the material culture that defined their daily reality. Kate and Janea finished and delivered the new linen petticoat for Carpenter's Apprentice Mary. In addition to continuing work on her shift, Kate has begun stitching on the sleeves and trim for one of our "Gown in a Day" gowns. The back of that gown - cut and pleated in the sack style - has been completed by Janea and Rebecca, who are now ready to begin work on the front pieces. We hope to begin to fit the gown together in the coming week, with Kate as our model "customer." The fabric is a lovely, lightweight printed cotton, perfect for summer wear.

Rebecca has finally completed the trim on her sack jacket and petticoat. This was a project begun last summer by our two interns. Their internships ended before it was complete, and it was set aside for months in favor of other projects with more pressing timelines. At long last, it's been finished, just in time for the summer! It's cut in a more casual polonaise style with looser sleeves and a bodice that pulls away from the torso to allow for more air circulation in Virginia heat. All that's needed now is a matching cap ribbon!

We're also preparing materials for our final Workshop this coming Thursday and working on putting together our site and program-specific interpretive outlines.



The Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Thursday (12:00-5:00pm), and Saturday.

Music – Greetings from The Governor's Musick! Our last Spring concert is Tuesday, June 7th, at 7:00pm, its ending neatly coinciding with the decidedly Summer-ish weather. Also finishing up this coming week is our Wednesday afternoon Raleigh programming on the musical life of 18th-century Williamsburg. We will be back in the Raleigh, and the Palace, in the Fall, but in the meantime, we are all busy with our summer programming. On Thursday, June 16th, at 7:00pm, we begin a concert series on the Palace Stage; on June 17th, we are in the Hennage Auditorium with Amy's "Bird Fanciers' Delight" lecture/concert; and on Saturday, June 16th, at 7:00pm, we launch our first summer concert series at the Capitol.

Jenny is finalizing our Palace Stage program, focusing on the Pleasure Garden phenomenon of England and its influence on musical tastes here in Virginia. There is a wealth of material from which to choose, and Jenny is making sure that our program adequately represents all aspects of these 18th-century amusement parks.

Brady has been researching his family history in preparation for our first Summer Capitol Series. The Lanier family were court musicians for several generations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in France and England. Sometime before 1656, John Lanier, cousin of famed musician Nicholas Lanier, and his wife Lucrece emigrated from England to Charles City County, Virginia, just a few miles west of where we are right now in Williamsburg. John's descendants would in turn found their own extensive family tree here in America, notable members of which include playwright Tennessee Williams, poet Sidney Lanier....and Brady!

Kyle is working on doing organized piano concerts at the Museum starting in August, focusing on Ann Barraud, a resident of Williamsburg in the early 19th century, and her collection of music, which is at William and Mary. He's also preparing free flow programs for the Geddy House and the Cabinetmaker Shop (both for spinet) in preparation for those spaces' openings in mid-June.

Karol is fine turning "Phillis Wheatley and the Music of Freedom", our Independence Day Hennage concert which sadly had to be shelved last year but will be presented this year over the July 4th weekend. She also continues her work on the origins of Yankee Doodle and other patriotic musical poems.

We are all providing potential repertoire for our second Capitol series later this summer, on diversions close to home here in the Tidewater area - tobacco, wine, hunting, and dancing.

Printer and Bookbinder:

Printing Office – The Printing Office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Bindery – Good Day to All! This past week, the Colonial Williamsburg Bookbindery had the sincere pleasure of hosting a Practice Family Workshop for our colleagues, to prepare for an upcoming Summer Series for our Guests. We focused on making paste paper to cover 18th-Century "Commonplace Books" and sent each participant home with a little notebook of their own making. It was nice to share space with people that we do not get to see on a regular basis, and I am always reminded of how much I love the people I work with, and just how fabulous my colleagues truly are. Thank you to all who came out to both classes. You turned 'just a regular Sunday' into something special.



The Bookbindery will be open Sunday through Tuesday, and Friday.

Public Leather Works – This week's Public Leather Works update is brought to you by the letter “**B**”.

Mr. Howlett has done some repairs on a **B**ridle.

Mr. Tilley and Ms. Cross have been working on **B**reeches.



And our Intern Ms. McKnew has been working on a leather **B**ox.



Until next time:

B well

B safe

and

B hydrated

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

Department of Historic Trades and Skills

Volume 8, Issue 21

Shoemaker – The Shoemakers will be at the Armoury on Monday, and Thursday through Saturday. On Wednesday, June 8th, at 4:30pm in the Hennage Auditorium, the Shoemakers will present “The Art of the Stuff Maker: An Introduction to Women’s Shoes in the Late 18th century. This program will go over the popular fashions and typical construction techniques that made women’s shoemaking a separate branch of the trade.

Silversmith – Wonderful news at the Silversmith Shop! Chris has finished the teapot, and it is now on display in the Shop. Eventually, it will make its way to the lucky owner, but for those who wish to see it, please stop in! It is a truly lovely piece. Megan has cut out, filed, and is now polishing two reproductions of Botetourt’s coffin plates which will eventually head down to the Engravers. Bobbie is diligently working on her tray; it is shaping up very quickly! Preston is continuing to raise his army of extremely popular small bowls and is cutting in the decorative rims. George continues his work on forging out the long ingot for spoon blanks. Megan is reading *Jewelry in America 1600-1900*.



The teapot with all the pieces ready for assembly



Chris hammering in the handle pins.



The teapot in all its glory!

The Silversmith Shop will be open Tuesday through Saturday.

Tailor – The Tailor Shop will be open Sunday through Tuesday, and Friday (11:30-5:00).

Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing – The Weaving Shop will be open on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Wheelwright – Warmest week yet for the Deane Shop. Both Apprentice Murphy and Apprentice Joel have been hard at work on their hand cart project for the Market House. Having designed the joinery for the vehicle's body, Murphy has begun sawing the oak material to its proper length and making dowels. Joel has turned one of the pair of the hand cart hubs, thanks to the assistance of Murphy and Master Wheelwright Paul for powering the lathe. He will now use the completed hub as a template for its mate. Paul continues research on his plow design for Farmer Ed using an 18th-century source: 1784's *A Treatise on Ploughs and Wheel Carriages* by James Small. He is in discussions with Ed regarding the design, who was able to connect Paul to Bob Powell. Residing in Scotland, Mr. Powell is an expert on historical plows and wooden plow construction."

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

Wigmaker – Greetings from the Wig Shop! This past week, Debbie concentrated on maintenance and instruction, while Edith and Benton began construction of their respective cauls for their projects. Edith and Debbie met with Mr. Jefferson on Monday last, and it's been determined that Edith will make him a Dress Bob in a shade of brown, to reflect a purchase from Edward Charlton's account book. Edith is at the halfway point of her silk caul and will be decreasing the rows next. She has gotten her outline tape in place, has laced it, and has removed the small nails holding the tape in place.

Benton is making a Brigadier Wig in dark brown, to reflect the purchase by Mr. Nelson, from Charlton's accounts. He has begun the first large-scale caul outline for his apprenticeship. The outline tape is now in place and lacing will be done next. He will be using a woven netting for his caul.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any tonsorial needs and take of yourselves and each other out there!

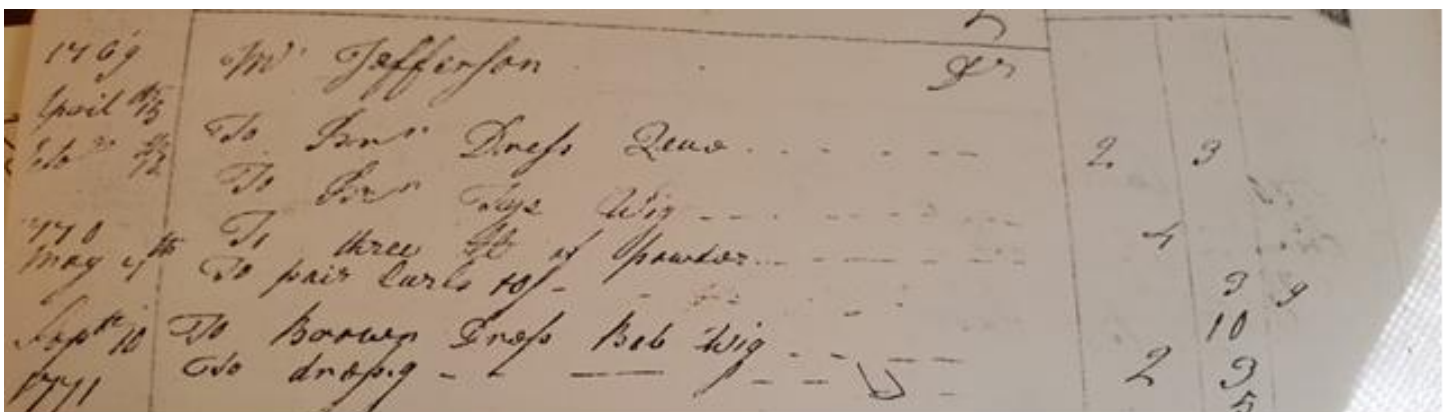


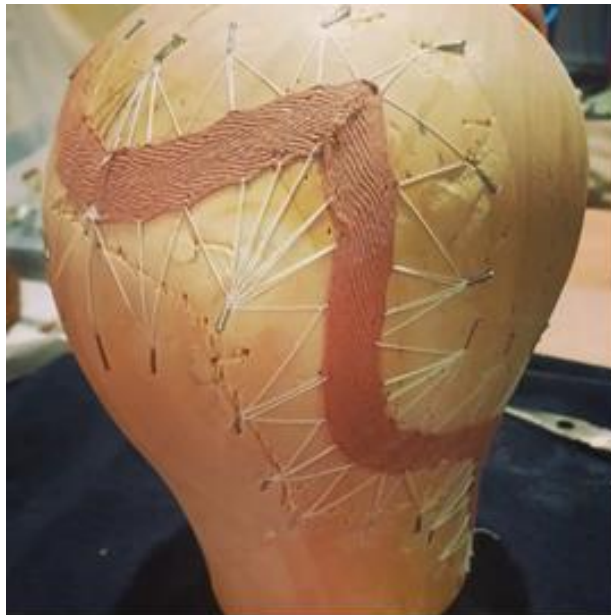
Image from the Wig Shop's copy of Charlton's Account.



Silk netting in progress



Outline tape in place, small nails holding everything in place



Small nails removed from tape

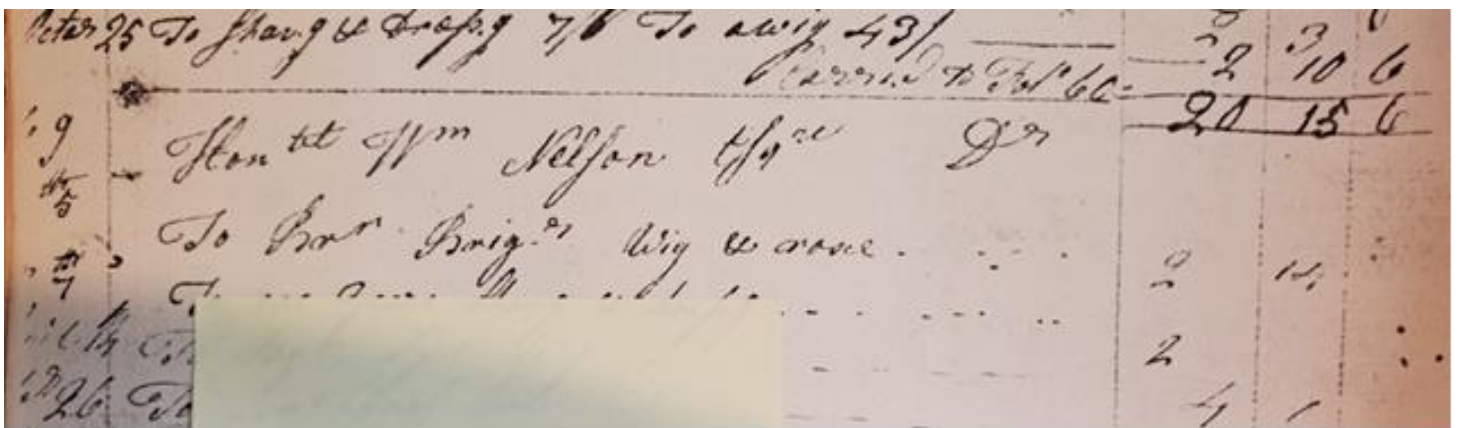


Image from the Wig Shop's copy of Charlton's Account Book



Creating the outline for the Brigadier Wig

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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