

# “THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

For June 9 - 15

## Armoury:

**Blacksmith** – “No one knows what the crow knows, but other birds are more forthcoming with tales of the Blacksmith’s doings. The song sparrow sings of a barrow under Ken’s attention. He’s bludgeoned the gudgeons and bent up the tyre and banded the wheel hub in iron. The red shouldered hawk is eager to talk of Aislinn’s locks and the weathervane that will soon be its perch. She is forging out scrolls with decorative roles while Mark has been filing, and joking, and smiling, to bring the exceptional directionals to their finished form. The towhee has seen, while taking time to preen, the Apprentices laboring, too. Nails for the Brickyard were made with regard and a shaped plate for their Tailor mate. They also made rakes for drakes and spoons for loons; at the foot of the anvil, you might hear their croons.”

**Cabinetmaker** – “Hello from the Hay Shop! It’s been a busy week. Congratulations to Ed and Melanie. They’ll be featured on the next cover of Trend and Tradition. In the meantime, work continues on the harpsichord stand and lid.

“Our Apprentice Cabinetmaker, John, spent an afternoon with the Joiners mixing some blue paint for his tool chest. After some final surface preparation, light sanding and sealing with a thin coat of shellac, the poplar exterior will be ready.”



“On Thursday, Bill, Brian, and John spent the day at the Furniture Conservation Lab studying a western Virginia tall chest of drawers for the next ‘Woodworking Symposium’.”



“The walnut top for the tea table has been removed from the great wheel lathe and is back in the Shop. With the legs close to completion, the tea table is about ready for final assembly.”



**Colonial Garden** – “The Gardeners have been working on weatherproofing the hurdles that the Carpenters so graciously made for us. With this hot weather, it is a nice task to paint them in the shade. Watering has been the largest task for us lately, so we have been very happy to receive so much rain; however, with rain comes weeds, so we have been quite busy weeding out many of the beds and pathways. We’ve built a trellis for the cucumbers in the hot bed, planted marigolds, Department of Historic Trades and Skills

agrimony, and echinops, took cuttings of our white and orange striped pomegranate, and pulled up all of the peas in preparation to plant pole beans. The day lilies and the bee balm are in bloom.”

**Farming** – “The flax is looking great and will be ready to pull in a couple of weeks. All the fiber eventually ends up at the Weave Shop.”



**Foundry** – “The Foundry is busy finishing brass escutcheon plates and hinges, and just recently cast a cannonball! 80th of Foot hardware is also in the works.”



**Joinery** – “June has already proved to be a moist, stifling nightmare. Each breath is a struggle somehow more challenging than the last, all while the still air teems with flies and gnats and wasps all eager to vent their frustration on a suffering world. Into this pestilential miasma walk the Joiners. Unbent and unafraid, they continue to ply their trade in spite of all Virginia in her misery can throw at them. For each warped board and swollen joint, the Apprentices coax forth new works with their hands. Called upon to craft doors upon doors upon doors, the Joiners will not falter, will not fail. Be they pine or walnut or the very bones and marrow of the Earth herself, there is no material that can trip them up. Onward!”

**Public Leather Works** – “The helmet Jan made for the 1st Continental Light Dragoons uniform made by Michael in the Tailor Shop is complete and modeled beautifully by Mark Schneider. Otherwise, work continues apace on the 80th Regiment accoutrements.”



**Milliner and Mantua-Maker** – “This week, the Milliners of a certain Mistress H's shop have diligently turned their attention to a number of projects on their table. It has been rumoured that Apprentice A has turned her hand to stitching of shifts. Yes, Dear Reader, not one of those most intimate of women's garments but two (that are said to be made of neither the finest shift linen nor the coarsest but of linen suited to a milliner's apprentice). We have heard there was an exchange between a certain Lady Smith and Apprentice C wherein it is said that a pair of chisels transferred hands. In fact, it is reported that those working nearest to this particular Shop heard the profusion of admorative "oohs" and "ahhs" for the remainder of the workday. This author has it on good authority from another Apprentice in that shop that the Mistress has taken on two young girls to start learning the skills of the trade. We hear they will be starting in Shop this very day, if any curious readers should wish to make their acquaintance. This author takes it as her most important purpose to bring to light any developments of particular interest, and shall endeavor to continue to bring you only the most intriguing and relevant observations on the happenings of this city.”

**Silversmith** – “Bobbie has laid out the piercing pattern on the spice caster and begun preparations to start cutting. Chris is raising the body and lid of her teapot. Lynn has nearly finished the canoe plate and has been working on trade silver. Preston is working on several small bowls and the tankard body. George continues to fix the chasing tools while also completing spoons. Parker is planishing his copper beaker. William is nearly done with his copper plate and will soon learn how to finish and print the image.”