

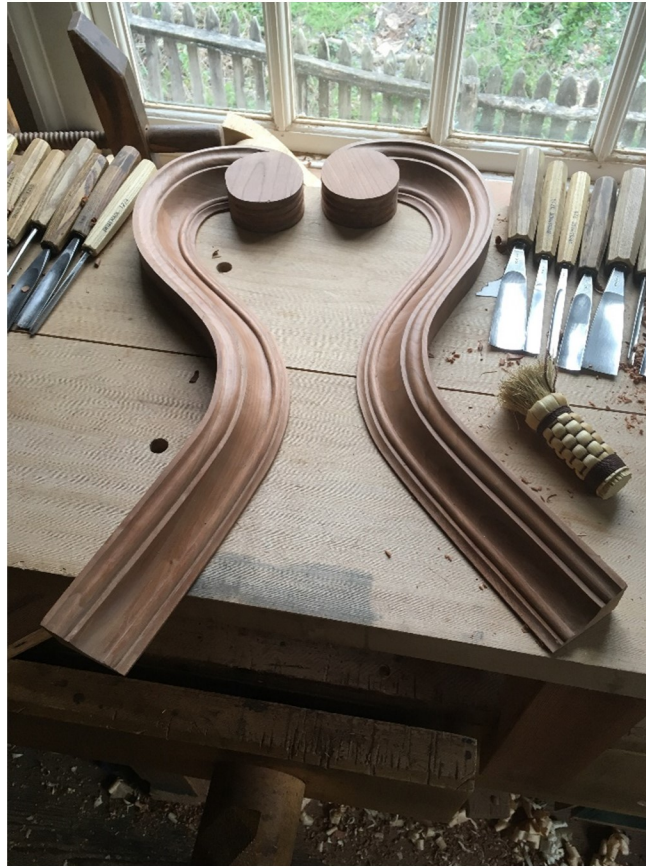
“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

For February 23 - 29, 2020

Cabinetmaker – “This week in the Hay Shop, we have been inching forward with all current projects. Ed and Melanie have been sawing up some white pine for the base boards of their next spinet.



John has attached the tympanum board to the top of the high chest and is working to complete the face frame of the case. Bill is rounding the corner on the curved moldings that will attach to the tympanum board. Jeremy is continuing his stock prep for his tool chest of drawers. To break up the weeks of work on the high chest, John has also taken some time out to sketch some acanthus leaves to train the eye and hand before carving.”



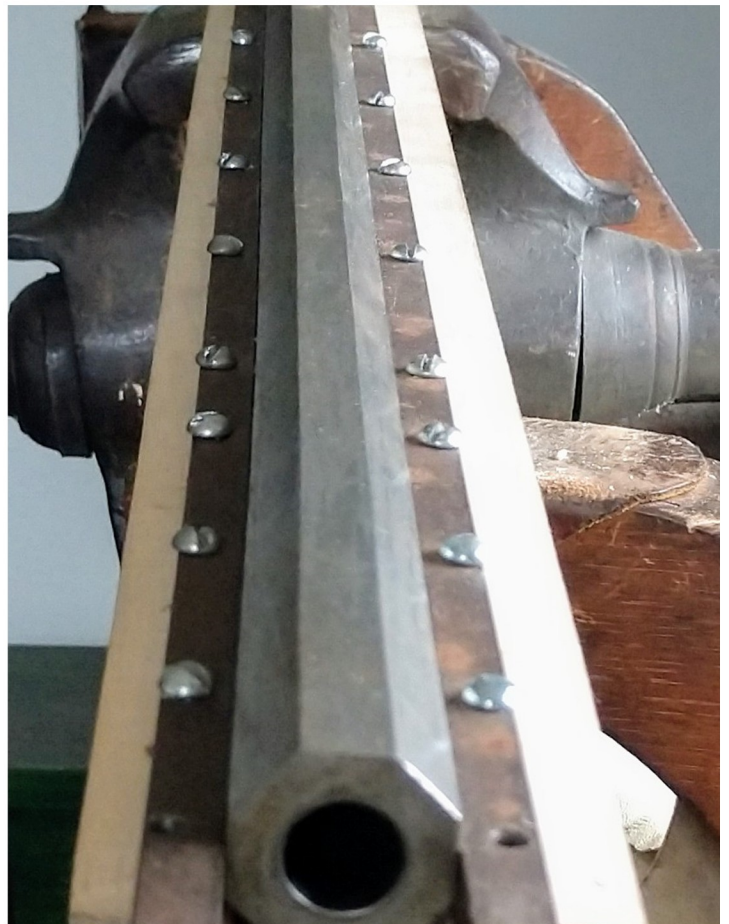
Colonial Garden - “The plants in the Colonial Garden are loving this year's mild winter. Our cauliflower has formed heads, the broccoli is sending out shoots, and the lettuces are noticeably larger each day. There is still a danger of frost in our area until mid-April, but some seeds can be planted directly into the Garden well before that. This past week, we sowed our peas, both an edible variety and the ornamental flowering sweet pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*). For plants that we want to start earlier but require extra warmth, we can use our hotbeds. The first hotbed of the season has been filled with horse manure, capped with a layer of soil, and then seeded with a variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

“Earlier in the week, the Gardeners collected a second round of manure that will be used to fill our next hotbed. Thank you once again to Coach and Livestock for the manure, and to our friends in the Paint Shop, who are glazing and painting the windows for our second hotbed. Pruning continues around the Garden; and this week, we trimmed the paw Department of Historic Trades and Skills

paw trees, the raspberries, and our young espalier fruit trees. Notable blooms in the Garden this week include daffodils, several colors of crocus, the very dainty *Iris reticulata*, a few anemone, and the green gage plum (though we wish it would wait just a little longer, winter isn't over yet!).”



Gunsmith - “Since the cases brace of silver pistols has been shipped out to the customer, Richard has shifted his focus to stocking up the rifle for the next customer. All the components have been previously finished, mostly by Eric von Aschwege, and the last bit to do is to grab the block of wood and stock it all up. The first step is to cut the top profile of the gun and inlet the barrel. Rails are screwed to the stock after they are formed to the contour of the barrel, which tapers and flares in profile. The barrel is then removed, and the barrel channel is started by sewing down the edges of the rails. The rest is removed with chisels and planes. Darrin and Brad are finishing up two pipe tomahawks for customers.”





Milliner and Mantua-maker – “Dear readers, I have received a most alarming missive. You will recall of course that this December past I had found amongst my correspondence a letter from an apprentice known as “Crow’s Toes” sending regards to “Rocks for Brains,” “Mithras,” “Mulled Cider,” and “Coal Squash.” I was so intrigued by these strangers’ aliases that I published them in hopes of uncovering their identities. And now this Crow’s Toes has addressed me in a letter I shall transcribe below:

“Dear Mrs. Crackenthorpe,

“My associates and I will kindly request you Cease asking after our Identities, as we are Persons of Great Esteem among the footpads and ruffians of the town. Should you by circumstance make our Business difficult, we shall return our Difficulties upon you.

“(signed) Crow’s Toes”

To this I can only reply with a phrase I heard from the lips of the young apprentice milliner, Miss A--- H---: “Come at me, bro.”

Silversmith - “This week, Bobbie has started drawing wire for silver trays and has been doing some finishing work on the tankard lid. Lynn has been engraving trade silver as well as working through regular orders. Chris is working on the smaller components of her teapot as she awaits her spout from the Foundry. Preston has been polishing silver for transfer to the Golden Ball, as well as working on several small bowls. George completed nearly two dozen spoons and is working on polishing a dozen more. Parker has started raising a second punch strainer body as he continues practicing the piercing in copper. William has been piecing together the previously unknown origin of his print from last summer, which has turned out to be “The Capture of the ‘Nuestra Señora de Cavadonga’ by the ‘Centurion’.”



Parker's piercing practice



Recently completed pieces ready for sale

Wigmaker - "Greetings from the Wigmaker! We've been very busy over the past few weeks with maintenance as we usually are in the winters when programming significantly decreases. Now that the combing and washing has slowed down, the 18th-century Wigmaker will pick up again! Debbie's priority is making a wig for Zack Pinsent. She took his head measurements and discussed styles as part of the Fashion Days while he was in town. Betty is finishing up styling a wig for the Museum, as well as a wig for Mr. Wythe, and will soon be starting a new horsehair wig. Sara recently finished altering the hairline of a livery wig and will be starting a cap wig for display in the next few days, which is one of the final wigs she needs to make for her apprenticeship. In midst of all of this, interviews happened for our new Apprentice, who has officially accepted the position. Stay tuned for an official introduction once they begin their apprenticeship!"