



**THE
MECHANICK'S
ADVISOR**

11/9/2023

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Carpenter

Open Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

The carpenters are installing trim around some shuttered windows and a door on the brick yard drying house, as well as clapboards. We've also raised the scaffolding for the work on the gable end.

- Matthew Sanbury



Clap board wall with window trim.

Engravers

The Engravers are open Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday through Saturday

This week William and Lynn have been working through the Brafferton Indian School gorgets getting all the names drawn on and ready to cut. Lynn has been working on several private orders as well. One of which is a mourning ring coming up. Many options to engrave inside so several were drawn out to show the customer. Bracelets as well as pewter teaspoons from the Foundry are getting engraved this week.

- Carol Zelesnikar



Mourning ring options and bracelet drawn out.



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Gardener

The Gardeners are open every day.

The gardeners brought out the bell glasses and hand lights as Williamsburg experienced a couple of frosty nights last week. While most of the plants in the ground are cold hardy, the glass provides frost protection to more delicate leaves. Since those chilly nights however, the warm fall days have encouraged a few late bloomers about the garden such as Johnny Jump ups, adding some excellent color. The gardeners have begun, in earnest, preparing for the pending shop relocation by collecting daffodil and hurricane lily bulbs. A poet's laurel was discovered to be terribly rootbound necessitating the breaking up of the plant into three pots for future transport and replanting.

- Marc Nucup



Saving a very rootbound Danae racemosa for use in the future garden.



Narcissus and Lycoris radiata bulbs being set aside along with Danae racemosa for the garden move.



Viola tricolor blooming in the warmth of November!

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Gunsmith

The Gunsmith is open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Richard has been in the smith shop refining the shape of the pistol barrel tube while Darrin has finished reaming the tube for pair of pistol barrels. Now he is spending many hours filing the exterior to a nice octagon to round shape before he cuts them in half. The filing goes from octagonal to sixteen sided, to thirty two, until they are round. You can see the facets in the photo. Breaching them is next, but that's for a future Mechanics Advisor.

- Darrin McDonal



Filing the pistol barrels shows the transition from facets to round.



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Harpsichord Maker

The Harpsichord Maker is open Sunday, Monday, and Thursday through Saturday

Greetings from the corner...Work continues on the details of the keyboard, with arcades applied, and applying baize fabric and leather for silencing the surfaces where wood contacts. No knocking allowed... Melanie has completed the soundboard for now. She has turned to making the bridge, a long, curved strip of cherry wood. It will both support one side of the stringband when glued to the soundboard, and also critically transfer the string energy to the soundboard, which amplifies that energy and thus produces the tone we all know. We continue... always. Best to you all.

- Edward Wright



Soundboard and Case.



Soundboard Bridge and Tools

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Joiner

Open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

November has been off to a busy start for the Joiners. Journeyman Peter is away this week to Tennessee to attend a class on making a Fan Back Side Chair, led by Curtis Buchanan. We are eager to see the results of his hard work. Brian is diving into preparing stock for the first of the Bray School projects- a set of benches that represent how the students were likely seated for their lessons. Laura continues working on the toolbox, gluing up the case, cleaning the finished dovetails, and planing a simple molding for the bottom of the case.

- Laura Hollowood



Laura's toolbox, showing the dividers inside the top compartment.



The style of chair that Peter is making at class this week, a Fan Back Side Chair.

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Leather Breeches Maker

Open Tuesday through Sunday

Greetings! We are nearing the end of inventory with the washing and mending of two pairs of breeches that were part of the original "Summer of the Breeches" project in 2015. They are holding up well and brings the total of still issued breeches made that year to six!!

We also welcomed the shoemakers back into our shop for the winter months as their current space has no heat source. As they say, if you are cold, they are cold-bring them inside.

- Sarah Cross



The set up of Shoe island and Breeches town.

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Printer

Open Sunday, Monday, and Thursday through Saturday

Here at the Printing Office, we had a visit from Diane Rey who portrays Anne Catherine Green, printer of the Maryland Gazette. Diane and Cecilia Weaver both set lines for a proposed book that would be small enough to have sixteen pages in the press at one time. We plan on printing on damp paper to see the paper shrinkage before we commit to a final line measure.

- Peter Stinehy



Type for proposed new book.

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Tailor

The Tailor is open Sunday through Thursday

November is National Native American History Month.

In November of 1773, the young Indigenous men who attended the College of William & Mary's Brafferton School were provided new clothing. Of imported fabrics and English style, the garments were an integral part of the school's efforts to indoctrinate the students in English culture and religion. The surviving receipt for the fabrics and accessories purchased reveals much about the attitudes towards and the experiences of these boys as they negotiated a life between their tribal communities and the colonized world. This year marks the 300th anniversary of the building of the Brafferton school and this November is the 250th anniversary of that receipt. Come visit the Tailors in their shop as they recreate and discuss the clothing of the Indian boys. Thursdays November 9, 16, 23, and 30. Ongoing between 10am-Noon and 2pm-4pm. General Admission Ticket required.

- Michael McCarty

1773 Clothing for the Indian Boys		
24 yards of Green Plains	2/1	2.10
3 Doz of Large buttons	2/6	1.10
6 Doz small buttons	2	1
22 1/2 Opnabrogs	3/4	15.6
3 yds of Skive buckles	6/2	1.70
3 Do. of Bone buckles	2/6	2.0
3. Walts	1/6	4.6
2. Pair of Mens Stockings	8/	1.4
4. Pair of Womens Stockings	10	3.6
Pair of Pair of Shoes		3.10.7
22 yds Bowls		1.5
		5.3.7
50 yds for Becht's Change		7.11.10
		27.10.5
2 yds for Becht's Change		2
as above		17.11.5
1 yds for Becht's Change		30.10.2
		38.15.7

*Invoice of the Brafferton Indian School
Clothing for Students, 1773 / William &
Mary / Brafferton Estate Collection,
University Archives, Special Collections
Research Center, W&M Libraries /
UA113.*



*Portrait of Toosanahowi, 1734 / attrib.
Jonathan Richardson, Sr/ CWF Collection
/ 2005-125.*

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Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers

The Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers are open Sunday through Wednesday and Saturday

Annie's overshot is off the loom! This means that it is time to set up a new warp. Joe will be lead weaver on a brilliant blue point twill. With nearly 1,300 yarns to program, this warp will take at least 13 hours to set up. That is, if there are no mistakes!

- Pamela Russo



Warp in the set up process on the counter-march loom

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Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Bookbinder**

- *Tuesday through Saturday*

- **Cabinet Maker**

- *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*

- **Cooper**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Famer**

- *Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday*

- **Fife and Drum**

- **Founder**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Historic Masonry**

- *Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday*

- **Milliner and Mantua-Maker**

- *Tuesday through Saturday*

- **Musket Range**

- *Ticket Event*

- **Shoemaker**

- *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Sunday*

- **Silversmith**

- *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Tin Plate Worker**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Wigmaker**

- *Sunday through Thursday*

- **Wheelwright**

- *Sunday through Friday*

Editor.

Matthew Siepinski