

# “THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

## For March 15 - 21, 2020

### Armoury:

**Blacksmith** – “A very merry March to our fellows from the James Anderson Blacksmiths. This past week brought much that was new and exciting, but at the top of the list is the arrival of our new Apprentice, Broadus Thompson, in the Blacksmith Shop! Although he has introduced himself to many of you, Owen and Alex were proud to induct him into the Admirable Association of Anderson Apprentices (pictured below).



Left to right: Owen, Broadus, and Alex

“The Shop took a field trip to Mount Vernon this week to examine them distilling rye whiskey, investigate the Grist Mill, and embark on some spirited discussion. In the Shop, meanwhile, we had groups of students from Winterthur and Washington College who learned the rudiments of the Trade.

“Less rudimentary were the projects undertaken: Ken was occupied with repairing locks and making a key, as well as a wheelbarrow tire. Mark made nails for the Cabinetmakers and focused various important Shop maintenance activities. Aislinn was very elegant this week, with fancy holdfasts for the Musical Instrument Makers, and a nutcracker. Alex’s holdfasts were not quite as elegant but headed to the same destination, and his shutter dogs remain. Owen worked on curtain rod, Tim focused his attention on shovels, and Broadus began the apprenticeship with pot hooks and spoons! Wherever it lands, it all falls well at the foot of the anvil.”

**Cabinetmaker** – “Another week has come and gone in the Cabinet Shop. Bill has been refurbishing a reproduction walnut standing desk-on-frame that has been used in our ware room for around 30 years. It will be moved to a new location in CW, so we want it looking its best!



“Jeremy has completed the outer case of his tool chest of drawers and is enjoying showing off a new pair of miniature holdfasts made for him by the Blacksmiths.



“John and Jeremy have been working hard at, and have finally finished, a series of wood racks for storage underneath the front bench.



“Ed and Melanie have been sawing and planing in some white pine to make the base boards of the next spinet.”



**Colonial Garden** – “This week, the Gardeners took advantage of the warm weather to prepare one of our planting beds for spring. This particular bed was in need of restoration, and we added many wheelbarrow loads of compost before turning the soil. In the coming week, we will be planting out some of our more cold-tolerant flowers and herbs that will put on a good show later this spring. Following much consideration and debate this winter, the Gardeners decided to remove the willow hedge that bordered one of the front beds. A herculean task for sure, and a big thank you to our volunteer, Chip, for helping us remove them. Our seedlings are looking very healthy in our first hotbed, and the second

hotbed of the season is now ready for planting. Notable blooms in the Garden this week include our Peach and Nectarine trees (*Prunus persica*), the snake's head iris (*Iris tuberosa*) and bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*).”



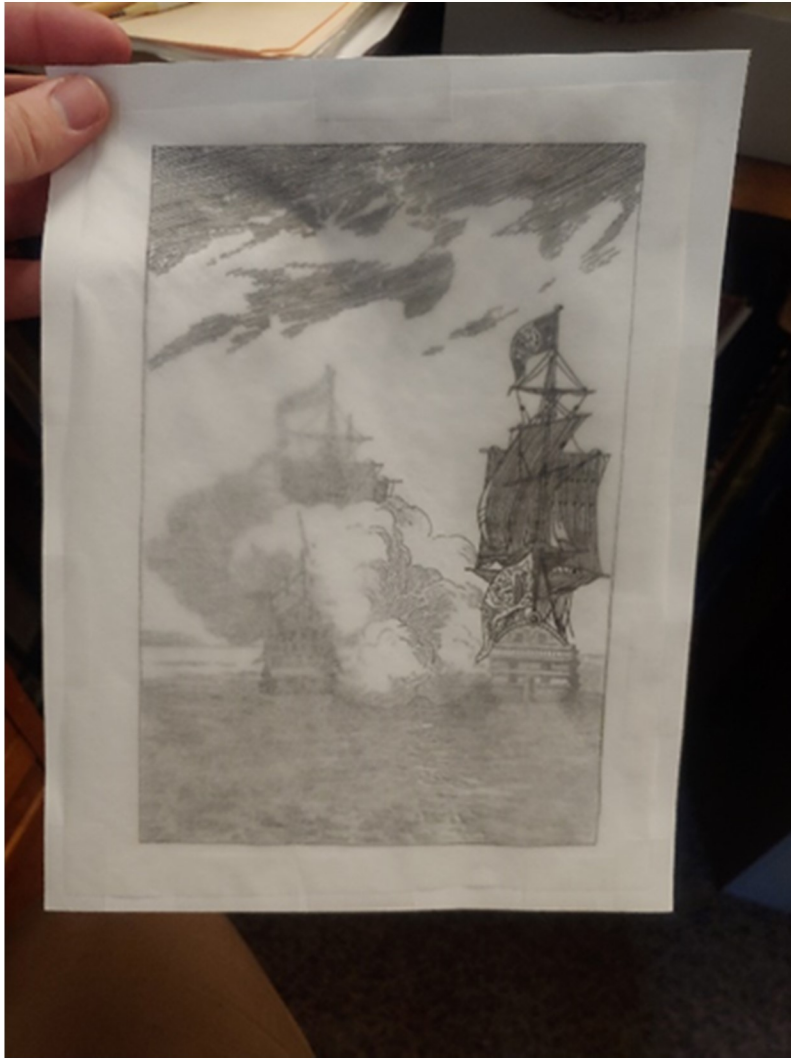
**Farming** – “This week, Farmer Ed presented a ½-day immersive program for Washington College students on 18<sup>th</sup>-century agriculture. One focus was learning about cultivation methods including the most important tool in the world - the hoe. Also included was the second most important: the plow. With these implements, we as human beings could till the soil and plant seeds and live more abundantly.

“Shown below are the students learning the ancient techniques of hoeing.”



**Milliner and Mantua-maker** – “Dear readers, I bear sad news from Margaret Hunter’s Millinery! The lovely apprentice Miss Adiel H--- will be leaving our fair city and returning to her home colony of California at the end of this month! All shall surely be very saddened to hear of her departure, but I, Mrs. Crackentrophe, am most saddened of all. Miss H--- has been a credit to the millinery, though she was oft spotted shirking her needlework by going on daily constitucionals around our town. Rumours will soon be abounding of her future prospects in California, but I have it on good authority that she will be apprenticing as a dog-sitter for her parents. The task is sure to be arduous. Should anyone wish to drop by the millinery to make their good-byes to Miss H--- in person, I have been informed by the most reliable of sources that her last day is March 28.”

**Silversmith** – “Bobbie continues working on tray rims this week, as well as knocking out a seamed oval silver box. Lynn is finishing the pewter tea service and working through Golden Ball transfer stock and custom orders. Chris continues cleaning and fitting the various components of her tea pot. Preston is working on several small bowls and the tankard body. George is working on polishing spoons. Parker is still practicing his saw piercing and is making a second punch strainer body in silver. William is preparing to recut the Centurion copper plate as well as preparing to work on spoons. Additionally, William, Lynn, and George took a very fruitful field trip to the Mariner’s Museum Library Collection to look at an original 1748 1st edition print of the book containing the Centurion plate, as well as a vast collection of Theodor de Bry engravings.”



Redrawing and cleaning up the Centurion plate