

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

For May 5 - 11

Apothecary – “This past Thursday was the first day that our pharmacy student starts her elective in the history of pharmacy. Chenoa Shelton is from Campbell University in North Carolina. This is her first rotation as she finishes her last year of school. We are excited to have her with us. She will be here for one month.”

Brickmaker – “The big news down in the Brickyard is that the 2019 season has officially begun. We’ve got clay in the pits, a spring in our step, and pollen in our lungs. Feel free to point guests to the Yard and encourage them to tread clay!”

Cabinetmaker – The Cabinetmaker will be closed this week for preventative maintenance.

Colonial Garden – “The Gardeners are sure of one thing this week: summer is coming. Work continues to prepare the beds for all of our warm season vegetables and flowers. This past week, we transplanted our artichokes and cardoons, and seeded summer squash, half-runner beans, and a variety of root vegetables. We also put up the poles for our lima beans. The apothecary rose is now in full bloom, and the others will not be far behind. The blue-eyed grass, clove pinks, and irises continue to put on a fine show. We are experimenting with a new technique for trellising our hops this season, which leaves several locust poles available for planting a climbing variety of nasturtium, better known as Indian cress in the 18th century. The Gardeners are very grateful to our Volunteer fence painting crew for their continuing work on our site.”

Farming – “The tobacco plants have been pitched into the hills, and the obsessive attention to nurturing these plants to perfection begins for the next 2 ½ months!”

From this simple plant
springs Virginia’s well-
being!

Gunsmith – “In the Gunsmith, things have been moving a little slow due to being short staffed. That being said, an Apprentice has been selected and will start soon - hopefully. Darrin has continued to work on his flintlock. He now has all the parts forged and filed and is fitting the pieces one to each other and making one screw at a time to fit each piece. Richard continues to work on the silver for the pistols and inlaying a silver name plate on the pistol case. Till next time...”



Joinery – “The Joinery has taken on a couple of extra projects. Two new brick molds are being built for their friends in the Brickyard. Once these are finished, the Joiners will continue to work on their assigned projects, finishing up the walnut door, hanging cupboard, and dumbwaiter.”

Silversmith – “Bobbie is completing the final fit for the top of the first caster and is preparing to cut the piercework. She has also started raising the lid of the tankard. Chris has been working on rings and preparation work for a teapot. Lynn is cutting a second John White image, this showing the creation of a dugout canoe. Preston has begun raising the body of a tankard and is finishing a small fluted bowl. George has been raising a mug and working on spoons. Parker is polishing his beaker, and William is polishing his 5-inch Gurney bowl.”



The canoe printing plate

Taylor – “This week in the Taylor’s Shop, having finished the regimental coat for the 1st Continental Regiment of Light Dragoons, the senior Apprentice, Mr. McCarty, will be cutting out an accompanying waistcoat to go with it. This waistcoat will be made of the same green cloth of the lapels of the coat with a matching belt of the same material. The junior Apprentice, Mr. Logue, while waiting for materials to arrive for an upcoming project, has been employing himself in making up eye-patches for use in the Apothecary.

“This week will mark the last week of our former NIAHD Intern and Volunteer of the last year, Charlotte Engel. After finishing her hooped petticoat based on an original within the Collections at Colonial Williamsburg, Ms. Engel went on to successfully defend her honors thesis on eighteenth-century women’s hooped petticoats. We congratulate her on her achievement and wish her good luck on the road ahead.”



