

# THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

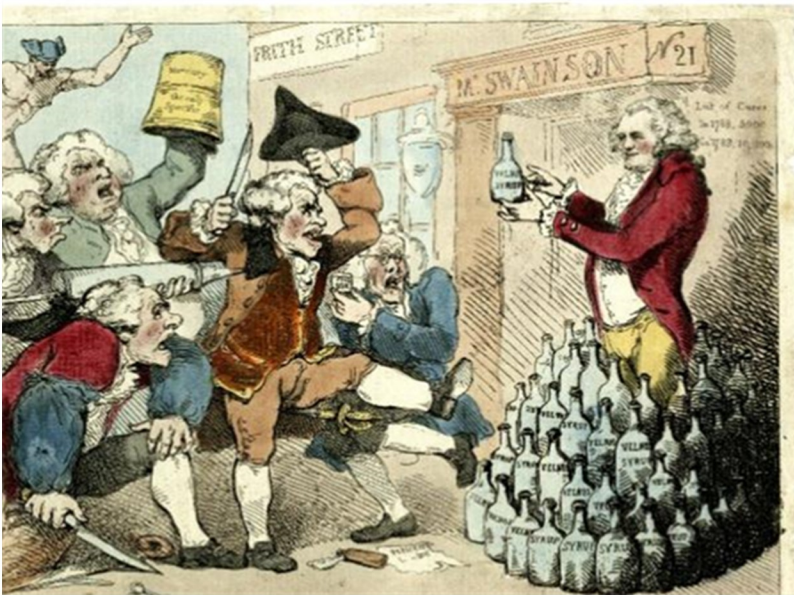
## for March 20 - 26

[Apothecary](#) – The picture features participants at a recent Women's History Month program about 18th-century women in business. They discussed business issues in first person, answered questions from the audience, and then changed formats to address the extant references and how they studied these 18th-century individuals.



In the picture left to right, Robin Kipps (Galt Apothecary), Katharine Pittman (Nation Builder), Chris Strum (Silversmith), and Dr. Lindsay Keiter (Research Dept.).

In the picture below, notice the blue sleeve protectors on the surgeon portrayed on the left. This was one of several primary sources collected by Robin and Sharon and shared with Tom Hammond at the Costume Design Center. Tom is going to make reproductions for one of the characters in the new midwifery play later this month. You may remember that the first set of reproduction sleeves were made by Janea from the Millinery, for the 2011 Costume Accessories conference at the DeWitt. They were modeled by Mark Hutter from the Tailor's Shop, and featured during Robin's lecture on 18th-century clothing as it related to patients and doctors. They enjoyed looking up all that info again.



The final picture is from Sharon's Women's History Program, "Growing Up, Growing Older". Held at the Raleigh Tavern, it is a unique program on women's health care. Every seat was taken, and they had to turn people away.



**Armoury** –

**Blacksmith** – They are still working on several hand rails for various stairs about town, ironing copper kettles for Candlemaking, making tools for the Brickmakers and for the Military Artificers, ironwork for the Wheelwrights, and nails (they are always making nails).

**Tin Shop** – They are working on lanterns for lighting in the new shops and gill cups.

**Artificer** – They have been staying busy finishing up mostly small jobs for other trade shops: tool covers for the Carpenters, and engraving pads for the Silversmiths. This week, they plan to dust off an old saddle project which had been sidelined: they will be replacing the burr and cantle linings on a French dragoon saddle and pulling the seat.

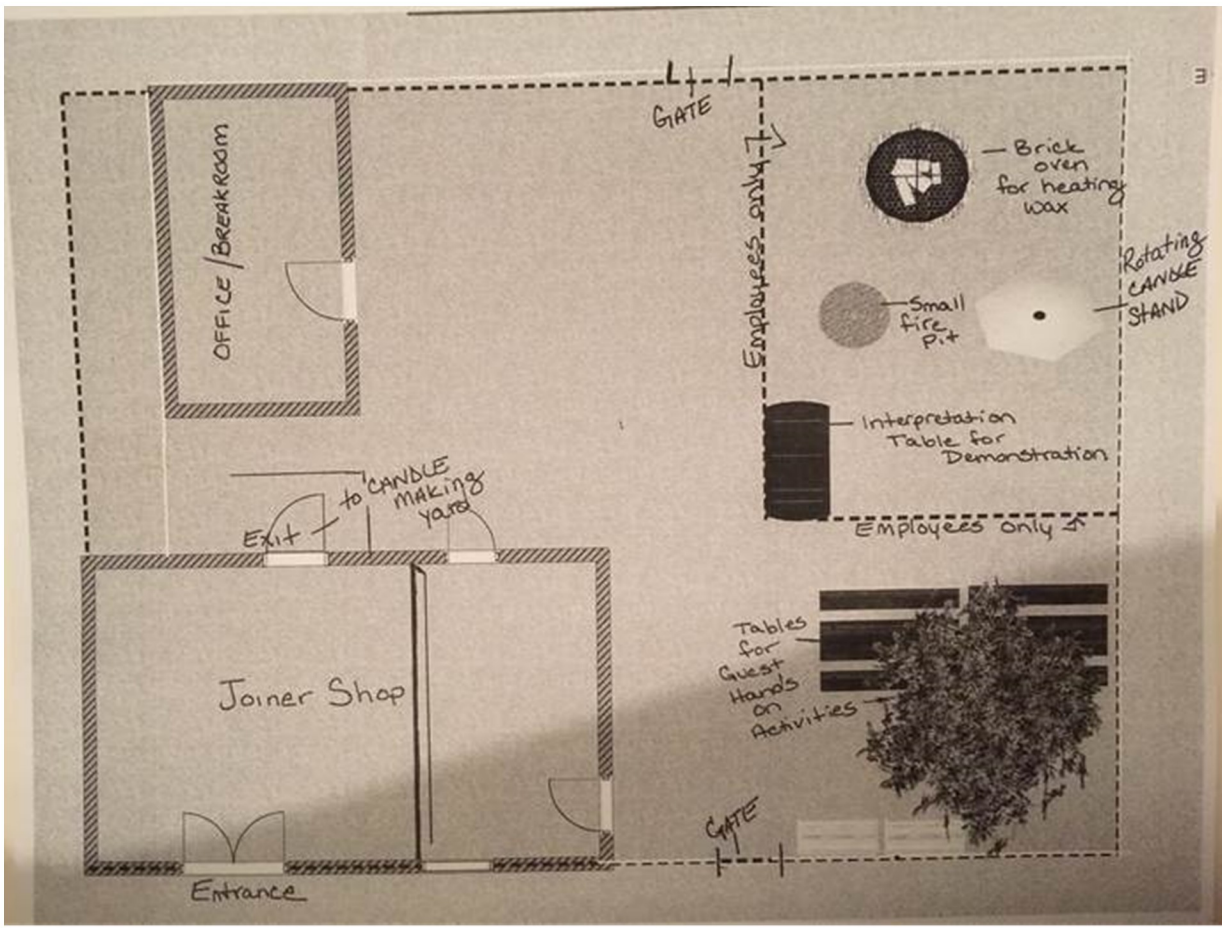
**Basketmaker** – They are currently working on large baskets for in-house orders and have a pending order for more large baskets. They also have a special project for Coach and Livestock. Alas, they are in need of trees and hope to hear from the log guy soon. Below is a picture of a Native American Burden Basket that the shop produced. They hope to see it in use soon.



**Brickmaker** – They will be burning a lime rick on Monday, March 28th (WEATHER PERMITTING!). A lime rick is a large fire for burning oyster shells. Once burnt, the shells are then converted into lime by the addition of water. This lime is used in mortar, plaster, and whitewash throughout town. The fire will be lit around noon on the 28th and will continue all night long. The Brickyard site will be open noon until 10 pm on Monday the 28th for the firing.

**Cabinetmaker** – They continue to work on several pieces: a coopered mahogany wine cooler, an easy chair (wing chair frame), and a pair of fluted tri-pod music stands. The harpsichord makers are processing mechanical parts for two future spinets.

**Candlemaker** – They have hired staff and are making preparations for a soft opening/training week starting on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Drop in if you can and visit the Candlemakers March 20-26. The map below shows their location:



**Carpenter** – The Historic Trades Carpentry program reopens to the public this March 18<sup>th</sup> at Great Hopes Plantation, making shingles and clapboards.

**Cooper** – Their new apprentice is working on fixing up a cask for the firing range:



The tub currently under construction will eventually help slake the thirst of sheep in the Historic Area:



**Fifes and Drums** – The Fife and Drum Senior Corps is currently working on new music for their participation in the Virginia International Tattoo held in Norfolk this April.

**Foodways** – They are participating in the “Ales for the Ages” conference on March 18-20. They are also firing up the smokehouse at the Palace.

**Foundry** – They are making a pair of bronze shellsticks, lead cakes for the Tinsmith, and furniture hardware for the Weaver.

**Great Hopes** - The Plantation re-opens for the Spring Season on March 18<sup>th</sup>, and they can’t wait! They will start the first day plowing with the oxen to get the tobacco and oat ground ready. The garden will be a hive of activity with planting turnips, potatoes, radishes, mustard greens, swiss chard, and lots more. If the weather holds, they will be sowing flax and starting the tobacco seed bed. Spring Is Here!

**Gunsmith** – They will be doing some filming for the History channel on Friday, March 18th. They will have the host ream a gun barrel. (They hope he is in good shape.) Work on the pistols and rifle continues. The apprentice is turning lots of tool handles for his files and screwdrivers for the tools he will use during his career at CW.

**Historic Garden** – Spring! They are excited in the garden and getting ready for Spring! Plants are being moved from the January hotbed and transplanted into the garden. More flowers have started blooming, including the early-blooming Duc van Tol tulips and the bloodroot! More garden clean-up is happening, as per usual, to keep the path clean and weeds under control. The pea trellises have gone up, as well, using the pollarded sycamore sticks, with much help from the Great Hopes staff!

**Joinery** – The apprentices are going to be continuing to work on getting their tools in working order. Their first project will be the construction of peg rails for the Weaver Shop.

**Military Programs and the Musket Range** – The Military Programs and Musket Range staff have all recently attended and completed several Range Safety and Instructor courses. Most recently was to become NRA/NMLRA Certified Firearms Instructors. Also, the Range Staff is working hard in preparation for the grand opening of the Musket Range this Saturday, March 19th. Our military staff is busy wrapping up clearings for safe use of the cannon and musket, as well as working alongside Revolutionary City to finalize scenes for programming this year. In addition to all of this is, of course, an ever-growing pile of dirty muskets in need of cleaning.

**Music** – The staff continue to perform in programming at the Raleigh Tavern during the day. Amy Miller and Jenny Edenborn will be performing in “Unbecoming Her Sex” at the Raleigh as part of Women's History Month. The program highlights female musicians in Europe who took on roles usually only held by men.

**Printers** – The Pressmen are working off copies of a Writ for the Hustings Court of the City of Williamsburg. Type setters are finishing the title page for "The Articles of Confederation."

**Silversmith** – They are working on various sorts of spoons (including mote spoons), salt shovels, Gurney Bowl and some fluted bowls, a pair of patty pans, trade silver jewelry, rings, and letter charms, a 12-inch Montieth, and ladles. Please note that at any given time, not all of these items will be being worked on, but all will be available to be seen and discussed with anyone who is interested.

**Weaver** – Their new shop at the Greenhow Tenement is now OPEN! They are working on logistics and “people flow” through the building. So far so good. Folks are able to get a lot closer to the equipment, and the staff is getting used to their new environment. They are working on prototypes for blankets and linen towels. The dye program is on hold until they can figure out where to put it. They will be adding things along as they get used to their new habitat.

**Wheelwright** – They continue working on an ox wagon for children’s rides.

**Wigmaker** – They continue to clean, repair, and restyle wigs for actors/actresses, dancers, and musicians this week. Debbie is still working on attaching the wefts of hair to her German reproduction wig. Betty is blending hair for a new set of ladies curls and preparing for our new JI's.

They also said goodbye to a very special volunteer to their shop, who has been with them for many years, Mr. Tim Jacoby. He will definitely be missed by all of them, and they wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors.