

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

for February 7 - 13

Apothecary – They will be supporting Foodways with their upcoming program on Confections, “Sugar, Spice and All That’s Nice”. Both Robin and Sharon will be working on their programs for Women's History Month.

Armoury –

Blacksmith – They are making hand railings for the Wheelwright Shop and the Joinery. They are working on an iron rimlock for a journeyman project, and forging nails for the ox wagon.

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

Basketmaker – They will continue to work on in-house requests: baskets for Great Hopes, the Foundry, and the A.I.s. They are also always trying to keep items in the Prentis.

Bindery – They are working on two small pocket journals, stitch books, and continuing to bind law books for the Capitol.

Candlemaker – They are pleased to see the interpreter jobs have been posted and look forward to seeing potential candlemakers in the coming weeks.

After meeting with experts in safety and hands-on programming, they are working to acquire some small equipment for use in visitor-participation events.

Ramona Vogel Hill produced an interactive site map that will be very helpful in activity planning. Barbara Scherer will assist with the Junior Interpreter Fair this coming weekend. Ed Schultz has added an iron pot full of beeswax from Great Hopes to the Candlemaking inventory. The Candlemakers appreciate all the help they have received from all over town: most especially from Ramona and Barbara. Thank you, ladies! Thank you, one and all!

Carpenters – They are fitting new rafters to the cowshed behind the Randolph house.

Cooper – They will begin work on two large cisterns for the renewed Fire Engine Program this week. They are always busy keeping the Historic Area functioning with the many different forms of cooperage, but this program is particularly dear to Ramona. “The memories I have of participating in such an interactive, educational, and fun program will be forever implanted in my mind. I am so happy to see its return, and the joy it will bring to our guests again.”

Dance – “Thank you for the words of welcome to the newly-expanded Historic Trades and Skills family. Since I'm the only one submitting for dancing activities in the Historic Area, I apologize for future installments that will likely become 'tunnel-visioned!'.” ~Marci

She is gearing up for the JI Volunteer Expo on February 6th to bring on about 10 new JV Dancers. Also, preparations are under way for some of the daytime Youth- Dancer Employees to slowly start joining the Adult Dancers in Evening School Group Dance Programs.

Most importantly, the newest 'Corps of Dancers', the daytime Dance Support Interpreters (DSIs) from Sites, Orientation, and Groups have just started participating in the "Pleasures of the Dance" programs at the Raleigh on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. She is very grateful for the coordination and effort from those different units to enhance a light-hearted and interactive entertainment offering to our CW guests. By the way, it may appear on paper as if Dance is on its own track, but she assures us that the powers that be in Dance, Music, and Fifes & Drums will continue to coordinate joint endeavors to present in the Historic Area.

Foodways – Join Historic Foodways as they venture into the world of “Sugar, Spice and All Things Nice” at the Governor's Palace Kitchen. Learn the secrets of the confectioner as they demonstrate making confections throughout the day. Marvel at the beauty of an 18th-century dessert table. The high point is when the guests get to help make an 18th-century confection! There will be two hands-on classes taking place in the Scullery. The Apothecary will also be featuring confections in the medical world throughout the day.

Foundry – The plaque and bell were presented to the First Baptist Church for “Let Freedom Ring.” They are now working on products for the Prentis Store.

Great Hopes - The site is closed until March 18th, so they are busy with training, site projects, and research. They have attended classes about slavery and will attend another on religion. Michael Twitty cooked with them so that they can learn more about the foodways of slaves. The Junior Interpreter Expo is this Saturday as a recruiting tool for new JI's for both the Farming and Domestic Arts trades. Stef Dunn is working in the Millinery this week as part of her apprentice training. Matt Sanbury and Cameron Green are building a 1500-rail fence as part of their apprentice program. They are working on three “full circle projects” meaning they go through the complete historical process. They are: growing flax to making a garment; growing an apple orchard to making cider, and what they call the original Farm to Table movement- from the garden to the pot. These are multi-year projects that go through the full historical processes. Work continues on a revised interpretive plan for the site.

Gunsmith – They are mostly moved into the new–old Gun Shop. They are still doing some repair to the forge, but it should be up and running soon. The apprentice is starting to make some of the tools he will use in the shop. They are stocking a rifle: the barrel is being inlet into a stock of curly maple now. Work on the cased pair of pistols continues.

Historic Garden – Germination in the hotbed! Little green sprouts from the cabbages and lettuces are starting the show. The ground temperature has remained a steady 80 degrees, which is perfect for a good germination.

With the warm weather, they have been able to get a lot of cleaning done in the garden: using a besom to remove all the rubbish that has collected between rows during the past month and the pruning of several deciduous trees and shrubs. Things are starting to look all tidy and ready for spring!

Joinery – The new Joinery will open on Sunday, February 7th in the Taliaferro-Cole Shop.

Milliners and Mantua-makers – They will be continuing their project proposals for Martha Washington's wedding gown and Quaker clothing for the Museum of the American Revolution. This week, the shop will be making a white Italian-style gown. Additionally, they are excited to host Stephanie Dunn, Domestic Arts Specialist from Great Hopes. Stephanie will be spending the week at the Millinery sharpening her sewing skills. They look forward to having her there.

Printers – The pressmen are printing off blank Tobacco Crop notes and Transfer notes that will eventually be sold in the Post Office.

Shoemaker – A recently-completed pair of men's common shoes. The heel is copied from one found on the 1781 wreck of the Betsy, a supply ship sunk by the British to block the York River before the Siege of Yorktown. (See the pictures on the next page.)



Silversmith – They are working on various sorts of spoons (including mote spoons), salt shovels, Gurney Bowls and a fluted bowl, a pair of patty pans, trade silver jewelry, rings, and letter charms, a 12-inch Montieth, ladles, and a pair of chased copper architectural elements.

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.

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

Wigmaker – They recently returned from a Hair Workshop that they hosted for the staff at Tryon Palace in North Carolina. Debbie is working on weaving and attaching the wefts of hair to her German reproduction wig. Cleaning, repairing, and restyling continues on the over 52 wigs that the actors/actresses, dancers, and musicians dropped off in January. They are getting hair lined up and ready to accommodate the new programs and AI’s in February.

ADDENDUM TO THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER for February 7 - 13

Cabinetmaker – Having just concluded their annual “Working Wood in the 18th Century” Symposium, the Anthony Hay Shop staff is back in the shop. Work will resume to complete the presentation pieces: a brass-banded mahogany tea caddy, a tripod music stand, and an easy chair frame. The harpsichord makers will continue work on components for a spinet.

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. The Junior Corps and recruits are back in classes after a month-long break and are preparing for their return to the Restored Area and weekly performances later this month.