

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

for April 3 - 9

Apothecary – Robin finished up her last program for Women's History Month. They are continuing to work on a project for pharmacy students.

Armoury –

Blacksmith – They have started on a hardware order for Jefferson's Monticello: 30 gate hinges with pintles. They are still putting the iron work together for the Wheelwrights, starting to make some hardware for the Windmill, making tools for the Artificer, and finishing tools for the Brickyard, all while still working on getting the Armoury garden planted.

Tin Shop – They are working on lanthorns, coffee pots, and mugs.

Bindery – They are working on blank ledgers.

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 – John King, Nicole Justice Green, Christina Hartless, and Lisa Youngers have been steadily interpreting to crowds of guests daily. It seems there is never a dull moment in the Candleshop. It is fair to say that Candlemaking is a crowd pleaser!

With the addition of long-time expert Candlemaker Robert Watson, whose first day in the shop was Tuesday, they are beginning to produce quantities of candles of professional quality. There may soon be “dipt candles and tapers” offered for sale in Prentis Store.

They have also begun bringing guests into the shop in a small way, to practice for a program in which specially-ticketed guests will make their own candles. It is expected that this program will start in early April and continue throughout the Spring and Summer.

Carpenter – They are making roofing materials for the new Carpentry Shop.

Cooper – They continue to work on tubs for Coach and Livestock, and they have begun making buckets for the Printing Office.

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 – A special tour will occur on April 3rd and 18th: “A Cook's Walking Tour.” Guests visiting our historic sites see lovely, pristine homes in fair order. But, did you ever wonder about the messy parts of life? Kim Costa will lead a tour to explore the often private world of food preparation in an 18th-century city. Guests will visit a variety of original out-buildings and sites, including smoke houses, dairies, kitchens, and bake ovens. Guests will learn what it was like to live and work as a cook and prepare food across the hierarchy of society.

The first Brewing of Spring will also be on Sunday April 3rd.

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

Gunsmith – They are working on turning tool handles for engraving tools and making handles for froes for the Blacksmiths. The rifle is getting the barrel pinned into the stock, and the pistols are having the springs fitted to the locks.

Historic Garden – This week has been busy for the Garden! Broccoli is coming along and tastes delicious! Almost everything in the January hotbed has been moved into the Garden. The strawberries are blooming, and they are hoping to get some yummy berries in the coming weeks. The Jacob's Ladder plants and tulips are starting to really make a show, to include the Lady Jane Tulips in the orchard. Ferns are also starting to poke through, and their leaves are uncurling. Watering is becoming more and more necessary with the wind and the warming temperatures. Their new large copper watering cans from the Tin Shop have greatly helped in this. Busy spring and lots of blooms: it's an exciting time to be working in the Garden!

Joinery – The apprentices will be working on packing crates for the ox cart that the Wheelwrights are building. Mr. Boscana will be finishing the workbench for the Tin Shop.

Military Programs – They continue the hiring process, both for a couple of full-time Military Programs employees and new militia members. If you are interested in being part of the militia, contact Josh Bucchioni (jbucchioni@cwf.org) in order to register before April 6th for training dates.

Millinery – They are making occupational millinery for some of our fellow trades – blue aprons for the Candlemakers, and a work apron for Amanda at the Joiners. Last week, they had the pleasure of working with Felicity Luna as they explore and create interpretation for a Nottoway seamstress in the Millinery Shop. They have interpreted the same materials and different uses and meaning in their several cultures. This week, they will be packing for the triennial maintenance of the Millinery shop starting April 11th.

Musket Range – The staff had a very interesting first week, due partly to the fact that two of their students were Ozzy Osbourne and President Reiss.

Printer – The Press is finishing a run of writs for the Williamsburg Courthouse. A form for "A Summary View" is being corrected for the press by the typesetters. In the afternoons, guests are able to print copies of the Declaration of Independence for themselves. Check with the Orientation Interpreter at the gate to see if they are running that program and at what time.

Silversmith – They are working on a chamber stick, a pair of fish trowels, a small sauce boat, meat skewers, various sorts of spoons (including mote spoons), salt shovels, a Gurney Bowl, 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.

Tailor – They are working on a brown worsted coat lined with glazed beetled linen. The Millinery and Tailor Shop will be closed April 11 - 22 for maintenance.

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

Wigmaker – With Rev City, the Market House, and other events in town up and running, the daily maintenance of the wigs for our actors, dancers, and musicians has picked up. Debbie is still working on weaving and attaching the wefts of hair to her German reproduction Bob wig. Betty and Regina are blending and weaving hair for a new set of ladies curls

and finishing up a handmade braided queue wig for the actor who portrays Patrick Henry. They are also working on a lady's "formal evening wear" wig for display at the Mary Dickinson Shop.