

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

for June 10 - 16

Apothecary – They have a new volunteer at the Apothecary. His name is Andre Greedan. He is a retired naval officer with a Master’s Degree in Public Health and experience in the same. Robin and Sharon have been updating training info for the new volunteer and their student.

Brickyard – “Level and Plumb”, a hands-on program where the Bricklayers teach how to lay a brick wall that is both level and plumb, returns beginning on Saturday, June 16. It will now be offered daily, 2:30-4:00pm.

Colonial Garden – An early heatwave, combined with the rain, has made the crops grow appreciably in size. The sunflowers have grown above the wattle fence, and it won’t be long until the cypress vine begins its ramble upwards to cover the wattle in a sea of outrageous red flowers. Peas are finished, and the Gardeners will allow the existing pods to mature to save seed for next year. Larkspur continues to flourish, while the poppies are slowly fading. Castor beans are up and have grown their first set of true leaves. With a little heat, they will grow into giants quickly. The cabbage moths are back, so the daily task of leaf inspection continues every morning. Weeding continues, and new blooms this week are Dutchman’s breeches (small but mighty), scabiosa (both white and pale blue/purple), and Madonna lily. Sent to the Kitchen are lettuce, radishes, cabbage, and strawberries. There would have been more squash if it were not for the rabbits, which are currently eating the Gardeners out of house and home. The Gardeners welcome their summer intern, Kendall Kin. She has already fallen into step with the Garden and is a great help.

Gunsmith – Work continues on flintlocks at the Gun Shop, where Darrin is fitting springs to his lock, and Richard is polishing his lock in preparation for case hardening. In between barrel welding sessions, Eric is filing out small parts for another rifle lock in Germanic fashion. Some additional work to the forge will make the fire more efficient, and they hope to be back to barrel work next week.

Joinery – This week, the Joiners will be turning their attentions to a series of benches. One of the Joiners’ favorite parts of working in their shop is interacting with their friends in the Pulaski Club, when it meets out front each Thursday. Unfortunately, the benches that the club meets on are starting to show their age, and so the Joiners have been tasked with replacing them (the benches, not the club members). This will be another chance for the Apprentices to practice laying out and cutting mortise and tenon joints. Since this joint is at the heart of their apprenticeship, this is an important opportunity for them. As everyone knows, practice makes perfect!

Military Programs – Military Programs continues to conduct their daily programming, assist with the Musket and Ax ranges, and operate the fire engine. They are also working with the Costume Design Center to create uniforms for their British Light Infantry Program portraying the 80th Regiment of Foot.

Public Leather Works – The Public Leather Works is congratulating Jared Fox on his High School Graduation. We expect he’ll be around in the shop a lot this summer. Stop in and say Hello.



Jared Fox in the Public Leather Works (photo by Fred Blystone)

Silversmith – George has been working on several dozen spoons for orders and for the Golden Ball. Bobbie and Chris continue working on the silver trays, the first of which Lynn has nearly finished engraving! Preston has been working on two ladles and several small fluted bowls, and Megan has been working on trade silver. Parker is working on several seamed cups, a small bowl, and trade silver. William is polishing trade silver, working on a silver bowl, and working on his first small batch of spoons.

Tailor – Michael is beginning work on a reconstruction of the First Dragoon Regimental Uniform, one of his final apprenticeship projects. Work continues on the Blair Suit Project.

Weaver – The Weavers are finishing work on the black Leicester Longwool blanket material. As this run will exhaust the yarn supply, this will be the final bolt made using the wool from CW sheep that was processed and dyed black a year and a half ago. They also are working on a linen fabric in a design called “Too Stitch”, which is a pattern found in a Weavers Draft Book in the CW Collection. They have a bleached linen warp and are using hand-dyed linen and cotton from past dye days in the weft to add color to the pattern. The next dye day is June 15.