

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

for March 27 – April 2

Apothecary – Sharon did her second program “Growing Up and Growing Older”, for Women’s History Month, this past week. Robin is doing her second program about women in business in the last week of the month.

Armoury –

Blacksmith – They are still working on hand rails for the Joinery and Greenhow Tenement, ironing a wagon for the Wheelwrights, tools for the Military Artificers, and door pulls and nails. They finished up some more tools for the Brickyard. They are planting the Armoury garden this week.

Tin Shop – They are working on lanterns for the Museum of the American Revolution, lanterns for the Weavers, and mugs and tea caddys for the Prentis store.

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.

Brickmaker – They will be burning a lime rick on Monday, March 28th. They will light at noon and anticipate it burning all night. The site will be open from noon on Monday until 10 pm Monday evening. This event is weather permitting. Three good dry days are required to ensure success of the burning. The rain date will be on Tuesday.

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 begun a soft opening to standing-room only crowds. The Candlemakers are pleased that all of their problems to this point involve too many happy customers. The new hires are: John King, Nicole Justice Green, Lisa Youngers, Christina Hartless, and Robert Watson.

You are invited to visit the Candlemakers in the courtyard, hard by the Joinery. They go live with their official opening on Sunday, March 27th.

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

Cooper – They continue to work on tubs for Coach & Livestock.

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.

Gunsmith – They are busy talking to school groups and lots of guests. The apprentice is turning tool handles on the treadle lathe. Sully is fitting springs to the two flintlocks for the pair of pistols, and George is shaping the stock for the rifle he is making.

Historic Garden – Spring is moving along and so are the staff in the Garden. The seedlings sown in the hotbed in January are now being moved out and into the garden beds. Emily and Jen are working together to build trellises for peas and preparing beds for transplants and seeds for the spring garden. They have transplanted out all of the cabbage into the bed, as well as sowing parsnip, radish, and carrot seeds. They are preparing to put lettuce in where flax has previously grown before, something that has not been done before that they are eager to try. They are also working on cleaning the garden to stay on top of the weeds and accumulation of falling spring leaves to make sure the paths and garden beds stay clean and neat.

Joinery – The apprentices are continuing to pursue the art of making a board flat. They are working on peg rails that will be used in the Weaver’s shop. Ted is working on a work bench for the Tin Shop.

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.

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.

Shoemaker – Currently in production are a pair of welted pumps, a pair of double-soled common shoes, a pair of stitched pumps, and a pair of turned pumps. There are also several pairs in for mending.

In the past month, the Journeymen have presented at the Virginia Forum and at the Virginia Association of Museums Conference, our Apprentice spoke to a museum studies/material culture class at the University of New Hampshire, and the Master has consulted on a forthcoming publication on shoes in 18th-century America.

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 linen sacking bottom for Mount Vernon and a green wool coat.

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 this week. 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 have several new wig requests that have come in and will start production on them next week.

Windmill – The lighting protection system has been installed by a contractor. Steve has installed the new copper flashing around the windshaft to keep the rain water from entering the mill. This week he is preparing to install a gate and fences around the windmill.