

# THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

## for the week of Sept 27-Oct 3

**Apothecary** – They are compiling and analyzing primary source material on cleaning teeth and working on organizing info that they have on domestic medicine for the new Domestic Arts program.

**Armoury:**

**Blacksmith** – They are completing the final hardware for the Market House, working on hinges and fireplace furnishings for The Museum of the Confederacy log house in Appomattox, Virginia, forging a chisel set for the Wheelwright Shop, completing the hardware for the Cabinet Shop lathe project, banding a hub for the Wheelwrights, fabricating hardware for the Windmill tail pole assembly, forging a blade for a straight razor, and forging a froe for private commission.

**Tin Shop** – They are fabricating two saucepans for Foodways, fabricating a set of kettles for the Shoe Shop, and making gill cups.

**Artificer's Shop** – They will begin construction of leather stays for use by the female Armory staff members, engage in alterations to leather breeches, and numerous odd jobs.

**Basketmaker** – They will be continuing to split white oak logs into material for baskets, and perhaps weave up some baskets for the Prentis Store in between, if time allows.

**Bindery** – They are working on two quarto bindings in calf skin, a full binding, and a half binding, all for Prentis Store. They are also starting a fifth music book in folio to be sold, and continuing the rebinding of A Complete Housewife for Great Hopes.

**Brickmaker** – They are continuing brickmaking with clay in the pit for treading, prepping the kiln for construction to begin in October and the firing scheduled Nov 18-22, and working on a lime kiln at Great Hopes located next to the Windmill.

**Cabinetmaker** – They continue work on the replication of two case pieces and an easy chair, as well as the upholstery for a half set of side chairs. Work on the treadle lathe is also underway. The harpsichord makers are preparing materials for two new spinets and their presentation to the 2016 Working Wood Symposium.

**Carpenters** – **The Market House is done!** They have moved workbenches, pulled down the tent, cleaned up, and packed up the tools. The Market House will open up for business next week, while they finish up some crates and boxes to complete the furnishings. They started this project in early April 2014 and planned to have it done by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. They made it!

**Coopers** – They have finished all the work contracted for the Market House and are commencing the restoration of casks for an upcoming program involving the delivery and collection of goods in Williamsburg.

Below is a picture of all of the items made for the Market House:



**Foodways** – The first brewing of the Fall season will take place on Sunday the 27th from 10:00 until 3:45 in the Palace Scullery.

**Great Hopes Plantation** –

**Historic Farming** – Plowing has commenced, with most of the top field finished. Manure has been spread in the low spots. The host of a BBC television show will finish plowing it up on Friday. They will plant clover in these areas to replenish the soil during the late Fall and early Spring. All the tops and blades of the corn have been cut off the plants and bound into bundles for fodder. Only the ears need to dry before picking. The first cotton has been picked.

**Domestic Arts** – Beautiful radishes are being harvested in the gardens and cooked in stews and other dishes. Planning has begun for soap making and laundry this Fall. Linen napkins and other items continue to be hemmed.

**Milling** – The windmill now has **SAILS!** It is starting to look like a mill again:



**Gun Shop/Foundry** – They are still making a rifle flintlock, which takes about 50 hours, and 2 flintlocks for a cased pair of pistols. The founders have about finished a hand bell for the opening of the Market House and pewter spoons and candle sticks for Prentis store.

**Historic Garden** – The broccoli is transplanted, and the spinach and corn salad has just sprouted. They are digging sweet potatoes this week, and the late asters and goldenrods are colliding in a cacophony of color in the flower border.

**Joiners** – They have completed the majority of the furnishings for the Market House. Over the last month, they have completed 6 Baker’s Stalls, 2 Butcher’s Stalls, a Poulter’s Stall, 12 tables, and 3 benches. This week, they will be working on the 2 sign boards and 10 small crates for the Market House. They will also be fitting the freshly-forged collars and hooks on to the poles for the Washington Dining tent.

**Millinery** – They continue to work on a petticoat and jacket, a silk Sultanna robe, and a reproduction of a late 18<sup>th</sup>-century cap, worn by a Quaker lady, which is in our CW collection.

**Printers** – The presswork is complete for “A Pretty Story.” The folding continues, soon followed by gathering the signatures, then finally stitching this political pamphlet/children’s story. Copies of “A Pretty Story” are for sale to our guests in the Post Office. They are now printing the third form for “The Articles of Confederation.” Once this is completed, they will have one remaining form to bring to the press.

**Shoemaker** – They recently finished a pair of double-soled strong shoes for one of the apprentices at Great Hopes. Over the fall, they will also be working on few pairs of shoe-boots (aka half-boots) for the other farmers, but their mainstay remains men’s common shoes and dance pumps for staff within trades and other departments. In April, they brought on a new apprentice. He is progressing well and focusing on developing and refining technique. In the coming weeks, he will be making a few pairs of slippers for some of the Blacksmiths. Over the summer, they had an intern with them from Bates College in Maine. During her three months in the shop, she learned to lay up thread and to close basic uppers. Her final project was to produce a pair of slippers for herself.

**Silversmith** – They are working on various sorts of spoons and salt shovels, Gurney Bowls and a fluted bowl, a “skittle ball” teapot, a pair of patty pans, a small dram cup, Revere Beakers and raised beakers, a thistle cup, trade silver jewelry, rings and letter charms, a 12-inch Montieth, 2 copper vessels (one being raised by the intern, the other by an apprentice), 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.

**Tailors** – They are finishing a worsted coat, a pair of knit cotton breeches, and beginning mattresses and curtains for Washington’s camp bed.

**Wheelwright** – A hand cart body is finished and being painted, the wheels and running gear are still in progress. Work on the repair of the ox cart will commence this week. A new tongue for the bike carriage will be sawn out as well.

**Wigmaker** – They are constructing a Bob Wig, comprised of human and horse hair, which Debbie saw in Germany, a wiglet for one of the AI’s, and a hand-knotted base for a new wig for Richard Schuman (Patrick Henry). They also continue to do daily maintenance on wigs used by CW staff to support various programming (plays, Ghost Tours, Rev City, and commercials).