

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

For February 16 - 22, 2020

Armoury:

Blacksmith – “This week, the Shop’s work is in great demand. The Wheelwrights in particular have been frequent customers, with a second clamp for wheel hubs added to Mark’s projects, and a second hub for banding in Aislinn’s docket. Ken repaired a skimmer for the Foundry, to remove dross from liquid brass, and worked on a lock with a wooden body. Alex has continued work on shutter dogs and made a few tools to help him in that task: a reamer and a punch. Owen and Tim are both forging and finishing spoons. The Shop also took a trip out to Monticello with the Apprentice Cabinetmakers and Jenny, the Apprentice Tinsmith. While there, Owen was able to deliver his curtain rods to a customer in the area. The varied innovations incorporated into that home, many involving iron components, were of great interest to the group. The Smiths also got a chance to examine some archaeological fragments. It’s an exciting week at the foot of the anvil.”

Cabinetmaker – “Greetings from the Hay Shop. John and Jeremy enjoyed a day trip to Monticello with the Blacksmiths and Tinsmiths earlier this week. Ed and Melanie continue preparing stock for the new Spinnet and have had good success keeping the lid for the recently completed instrument nice and flat until the brassware can be installed. (Changes in temperature and humidity really made it want to curl up!) They also visited Collections again to look at a few more instruments. Work continues for Bill and John on the High Chest of Drawers. Jeremy is continuing work for his small chest of drawers for tool storage – and with his new clothing allotment, he now looks the proper 18th-century Cabinet Maker!”

Milliner and Mantua-maker – “Dearest readers, work recommences in the Mgt Hunter Millinery shop after a successful embroidery workshop this weekend past. Mistress of the Trade J--- W--- has been in attendance at a number of sessions aimed at making her a better mistress to her young apprentices. She used her time out of the shop to stitch on a cap and is now working on a shift. Miss R--- S--- continues her work on the cloaks known as capuchins and has also found time to welcome to the shop a young woman from the *Institut national d’histoire et de démocratie américaine*, known locally by the students at the College as the NIAHD. The young woman, Miss J--- C---, has been stitching expeditiously on a suit of millinery. She has already completed a cap and has now turned her attention to a set of elbow ruffles. Mrs. C--- J--- has begun work on a pair of side hoops to replace the pair on display in the shop which is now known to be *démodé* in the accuracy of its construction. Miss A--- H--- is attempting to juggle finishing the trim on a jacket for herself and stitching a gown for Miss N--- B---, the shoemaker’s apprentice. Were I, your trusted news-woman Mrs. Crackenthorpe, a betting woman, I would encourage you to place bets as to which of the two projects Miss H--- will finish first. (Indeed, bets may be placed with any of my trustworthy agents!)”

Silversmith - “Bobbie has recently finished a mote spoon and several rings and is now working on trade silver. Lynn has spent this week coloring prints, as well as reworking the Stitch Book page and Apprentice Tour booklet in order to bring them up to date and include engraving information. Chris is awaiting the cast spout for her teapot as she works on the smaller components and rings. George has been polishing spoons. Preston has been working on several small bowls and the tankard body. Parker continues practicing the punch strainer saw piercing on copper. William has started practicing script engraving in copper, as well.”