

# “THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

## for August 13 - 19

### Armoury:

**Blacksmith** – They have begun work on some chisels for the Foundry, a large brace for the Wheelwrights, shears for the Gardeners, scissors, dovetail hinges, handrail, carriage hardware, and fireplace shovels. Last, but never least, lathe nails have been finished for the new Raleigh Tavern porch.

**Tinsmith** – They are working on cloches, kettles, cups, and tumblers.

**Brickyard** – Brickmaking keeps rolling along. They will be making bricks until the end of September. The site is still open every day, and they always have clay for folks to tread in. The lime kiln at the Windmill site is nearing completion, and there is a good chance they may be able to start experimenting with it later this winter. Come by and see it. Plastering at the Raleigh should begin in the middle of September.

**Colonial Garden** – This week, the Garden received over four inches of rain, and the Gardeners were well pleased. Squash bugs continue to multiply, so the plants are inspected every day to destroy the bugs and their eggs. In bloom are the sunflowers, Mexican poppy, marigolds, and all squash and beans. The bushel and dipper gourds are filling out nicely, and the Gardeners look forward to their by-product, which is most utilitarian. Bean seeds are being harvested, and seeds for the fall Garden are being sowed. Maintenance this week was cleaning up the yard that houses the compost and manure piles. Swallowtail butterflies continue to hatch, gracing the garden with their beauty as they skip about. New plants added to the Garden are prickly pear cactus (native to the Americas), which sit in the middle of the dry bed with herbs. William Bartram mentions them in his 18th-century travels. The Gardeners look forward to seeing them bloom next year.

**Farming** - Tobacco has been harvested, and guests can see it hanging in the Ludwell- Paradise Stable. The Farmers are beginning to take out the corn before the squirrels take it all. The cotton is flowering, and within a month or so may be ready to pick. Pumpkins are coming in nicely as well as cowpeas. The great news this week is that the Farming site will once again be at the Prentis next year, so stay tuned for what they have planned for the winter.

**Foundry** – Suzie and Layne are moulding and pouring more silver for the Silversmiths, Mike is working on a presentation piece, and Megan is working on teaspoons. The JIs are trying their hand at filing brass and bronze in the form of a carriage buckle, a powder horn, and a tea caddy spoon.

**Gunsmith** – Darrin is assembling a bullet mold for the set of pistols that Richard is continuing to work on. He made two identical halves and then filed and will rivet them together, before using a special bit called a cherry to ream out the bullet cavity. Eric made a set of forging patterns from an original Hadley pistol lock and filed out a rifle butt piece that he cast last week.

**Joinery** – This week, the Joiners will be back and forth between their shop and the Raleigh. Though the installation of the paneling was successful (the Apprentices only cried twice!), there are many more pieces that need to be installed before the Raleigh is complete again. Mopboard, surbase, modillions... all of these elements need to be re-installed. Meanwhile, work progresses on a new mold for the Brickyard.

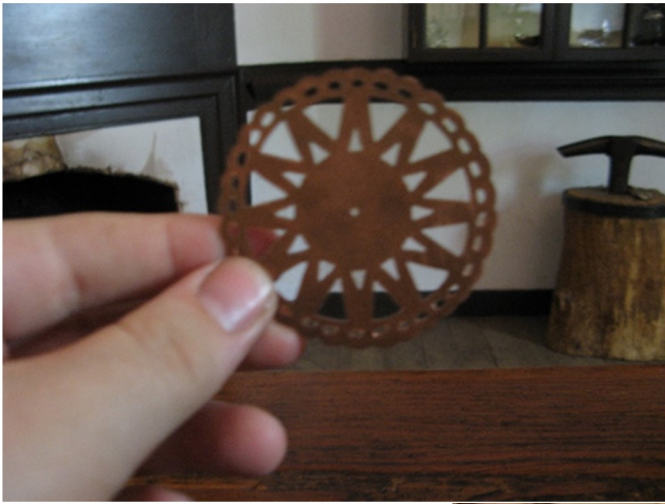
**Military Programs** – They continue to conduct activities in the Magazine Yard, interpret the Magazine, and present “The Necessity of Order in Battle” at the end of the day. Additionally, they are sending staff to help out at the Musket Range and crew the new Ax-Throwing Range on the corner of Nicholson and Botetourt.



**Milliner and Mantua-maker** – Both of the Junior Interpreters have been happily sewing this week. Alex completed the sewing for her new “teenage gown.” It is still back fastening, but is closely fit to her stays. Katie is making a gown, with the help of instruction and cutting out from Sarah Woodyard. The Milliners also had two really special guest encounters this week, the kind you remember twenty years later. A young lady from South Carolina, fifteen years of age, came in to the shop, very well dressed in 18<sup>th</sup>-century attire: a finely-fitted and well-made gown. She explained that she had followed the June “Gown in a Day” event on June 21st. Using the livestream and watching it many times she set out to make her dress. On the livestream, the Milliners explained that there were several ways the 18<sup>th</sup>-century mantua-maker could cut out a gown, one of which was cutting out from the stays alone. She said that she laced her stays, stuffed them with a pillow, and set to work. It was her first attempt at 18<sup>th</sup>-century dress-making. She is a Facebook friend, so they hope to hear more from her in the future and can’t wait to see what her second project will be. This visit occurred one day after an eleven-year-old girl, and her parents, sat enthralled in the shop, and the little girl asked questions for close to 1 hour and 48 minutes. Then they stayed and played games outside for another quarter of an hour. All and all, a happy week in the Millinery.

**Printing Shop and Bookbinding** – This week, the Pressmen are working off copies of the handbill “The Sentiments of a American Woman.” David is correcting pages two and three for Alexander Purdie’s newspaper. Saturday, August 19th will be the last “Young Apprentice Tour,” where the children use the printing press.

**Public Leather Works** - They continue production without respite.



**Silversmith** – The shop is kicking into full gear to finish the Monteith, with every Silversmith assigned their part in addition to their individual projects. Preston is working on several small fluted bowls and is planishing the body of the Monteith. Chris has begun work on a small silver patch box and is finishing many of the Monteith’s cast pieces. George has been working on the detachable rim. William is finishing a new copper template for a wheel brooch, and is continuing to work on his copper bowl. Bobbie is working on trade silver, preparing to make a salver, and has drawn wire for the rim of the Monteith. Parker is working on a gurney bowl and is finishing the handle for his thistle cup. Many thanks to the Founders for casting a bunch of pieces for us recently!



The Monteith and base, mostly planished



Parker's handle for his cup (top right), and the original cup he is replicating

**Tailor** – They are making a green woolen broadcloth suit, and work continues on the reproduction Blair suit.

**Wigmaker** – The shipment of hair has finally arrived! The wigmakers now have a fine array of colors to use for the making of their new wigs. Sara has begun frizzing VERY short grey Yak hair for James Ingram's wig. Debbie is working on the outline tape (to give the wig its "hairline") for Joe Ziarko's wig. Regina is continuing to weave auburn hair and create the base outline for the new child's wig. Betty is guiding them through all of this to make sure no one ends up with a lop-sided wig.

