

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

for February 21 - 27

Apothecary – The pictures below feature the “Sugar, Spice and All Things Nice” Foodways Program held on February 13th: Here, the Floating Trades Interpreters, Sarah and Tim, are compounding a medicine.



This is part of the display featuring the interdisciplinary applications of products in medicine and cooking.

As for this week: Sharon and Robin are working on their programs for Women's History month and helping with info for

Lucinda's midwifery program. Sharon is working on a medical fact sheet for training manuals.

Artificer – They are finishing cartridge boxes for the target range and will be making a few fire buckets for the fire engine. A vast pile of repairs is expected from Fife and Drum. Recruitment for this year's interns goes on.

Basketmaker – They will continue to work on in-house requests: baskets for Great Hopes, the Foundry, and the A.I.s. They are also always trying to keep items in the Prentis.

Bindery – They are working on the design for a book entitled, Four Centuries of Quilting, making books for the Prentis Store, folding paper for ledgers, and continuing to bind law books for the Capitol.

Brickmaker – They are paving the Armoury Workshop (Artificer Shop) with the Carpenters.

Cabinetmaker – The shop is closed for maintenance through Feb 26th.

Candlemaker – They continue to tool up. They are also reviewing applications and making ready to conduct interviews.

Carpenters – They are installing a floor in the Armoury Workshop (the Artificer’s Shop).

Cooper – They continue to work on the tub for the Fire Engine program. Once that is complete, they will be repairing some more casks for the streetscape.

Dance – The JI Expo was a big “Smash Hit!” The young applicants will be coming to Dance Classes to see if they are truly interested. The JI Dance Training is spread out through the remainder of Winter and Spring to prepare for Summer programming.

The Dance SIs at the Raleigh are having a great time with Guests. It is feast or famine in terms of the Guest attendance (a few couples or large school groups), so these extra Colonial Dancers are helping to bring things to life in the Apollo Room! The Guests really enjoy “Dancing with the Colonials!”

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. The Junior Corps and recruits are back in classes after a month-long break and are preparing for their return to the Restored Area and weekly performances later this month.

Great Hopes - They worked with the Orientation Department last Fall on a new collaborative project for an Interpreter’s professional development. Nicole Justice Green interned with Domestic Arts and developed her knowledge and skills in the work of a Plantation Mistress and the multi-faceted workings of an 18th-century farm. This was a big success, and Nicole shared this knowledge through a hands-on workshop last week with her colleagues in the department.

A 1000-rail split-rail fence is finished, and apple and peach trees are being pruned. Work continues on improving the hoglot and other site projects.

Gunsmith – They did a live stream for the Facebook page on February 17th. **This was the first time the forge has been fired up in 8 years!** Richard and Eric handled the live stream very well, and they received thousands of hits. Work continues on the pistols and the rifle. They are preparing for the Winterthur students visit soon.

Historic Garden – Lots of mud in the garden this week! They are planning to fix the locust pole edging around the beds that has shrunk and become unsightly. Also, they are planning by the end of the week to gather manure for the second hotbed and start that process again. Hoping for clearer weather this week!

Military Programs – They are currently preparing for a very busy season! With programming at the Military Encampment, Armoury, Acting Programs, and the Magazine, preparations are ongoing. Military Programs is preparing to offer a fond farewell to John Hill, Kent Brinkley, and Dale Smoot, and looking forward to taking on more staff to help with the coming programming. Military Programs is also joining the new Musket Range staff for much of their preparation, to step into their new role as extra instructors for the range, as needed. There are also talks going on currently on a variety of subjects in the Guard House at 11:00am Thursday through Monday. They are also commencing clearings for all current Militia members for both musket and cannon, and preparing to take on new members in the coming months.

Milliners and Mantua-makers – Kathrin Brown, Costume Coordinator for Mt. Vernon, will be studying 18th-century clothing construction and fitting techniques with them Wednesday-Friday. Several of the Weavers will be in the shop

with them on Friday as they continue their textile collaboration in the areas of making, selling, and competing with imports.

Music – The staff continue to perform in programming at the Raleigh Tavern during the day. Last week, the Raleigh Friday night Concerts began, and the annual "From Coronation to Inauguration" Palace Concert was held. 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. Gabri Williams is getting her feet wet as the first of several itinerant musicians and is helping out at the Raleigh and doing research. The musicians are preparing for the continuing Palace series that will begin in the spring.

Musket Range – The Range has undergone rapid development in the last few weeks. Three Range Masters and three Range Instructors have been hired. They begin work here on February 21st. The grounds are nearly completed, and all equipment has either been acquired or is in the process of being built. Range safety courses are coming up for all new range staff, along with the staff of Military Programs. They are on track to be ready to open by the March deadlines!

Printers – The pressmen are printing off a 1760's Bill of Sale for a slave and apprenticeship forms. They are also making corrections for Arrest Warrants for the Hustings Court of Williamsburg.

Silversmith – They are working on various sorts of spoons (including mote spoons), salt shovels, Gurney Bowls and some fluted bowls, a pair of patty pans, trade silver jewelry, rings, and letter charms, a 12-inch Montieth, ladles, and chasing two copper panels to be used as architectural elements on a local restored colonial home. 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 – Buttonholes, buttonholes, buttonholes. They are working on a pea green broadcloth coat, a pair of black breeches, and a new coat pattern.

Wheelwright – They are working on an ox wagon for children's rides.

Wigmaker – Debbie is still working on weaving and attaching the wefts of hair to her German reproduction wig. Regina is continuing to clean, repair, and restyle wigs for actors/actresses, dancers, and musicians. Betty is beginning work on designing 2 falls (half wigs) for the new program starting in late February, "Affairs of the Heart". Terry is blending and weaving hair for a hairpiece (ladies curls) that will be assigned to Whitney Thornberry, one of the actresses.