

# **“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”**

## **For December 8 - 14, 2019**

**Cabinetmaker** – “Work continues at the Cabinet Shop as Ed and Melanie start work on the first components of their next harpsichord: the register, which serves to guide the jacks as they move up and down to pluck the strings on the finished instrument. John and Bill are forging ahead with their high chest build; John is almost ready to glue up the giant box that is the upper case, after which he will start adding drawer blades and dust boards. Bill has sawn out the scrolled tympanum for the top of the chest and is studying the carving work to be done for the curved moldings and rosettes. For the last couple of weeks, the Shop has also continued the search for a new Apprentice in Cabinetmaking and have some promising contenders. Leadership hopes to make the decision soon as to who will be joining us in the Hay Shop.”

**Milliner and Mantua-maker** – “Next week, Wednesday thru Friday (yes, Friday the 13th), we are going to be making our annual wedding gown.

We are gearing up for our ‘Gown in Three Days’. With the number of people who are going to be helping us sew, and the size of the project, we are planning to add our second worktable. The second worktable means that the building capacity of guests standing in our shop goes down from 26 to about 20. This means that interpretation will be different, and much more free flow. Come and visit with us several times and see the progress. The gown will be on display Saturday and Sunday in the Shop.

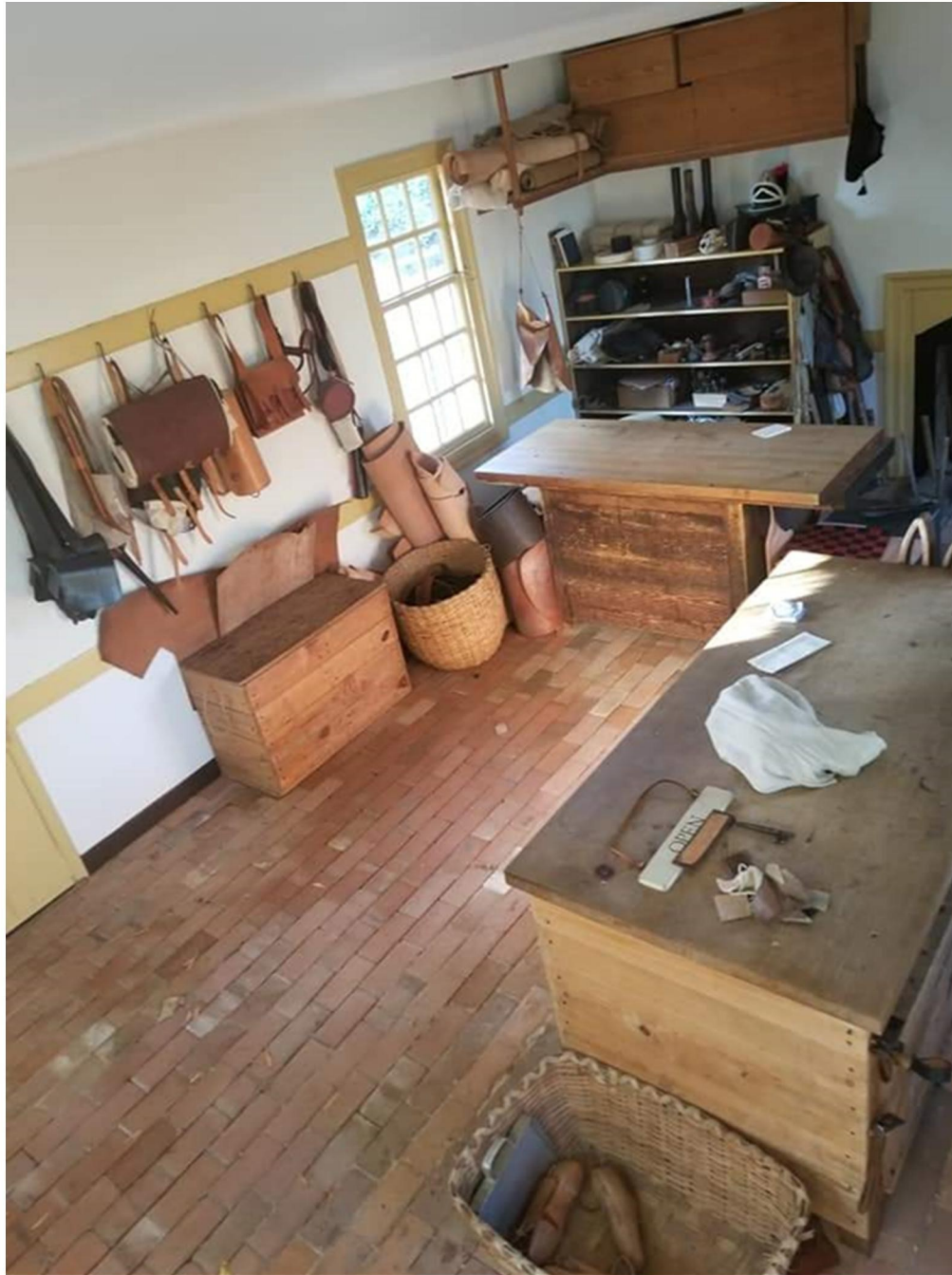
“We are also excited as we will have a “real” Betsy Farrow this year. Betsy was Margaret and Jane Hunter’s niece, daughter of their sister Elizabeth, who lived in London. The Actor Interpreters have graciously offered to share with us the expertise of Michelle Smith, who has been studying Miss Betsy. Other Actor Interpreters and Nation Builders will be dropping by the Shop to talk with her and share their own wedding experiences. Our interpretation will be mixed with regular third-person conversation and present-tense interaction when talking with 18<sup>th</sup>-century people, so it should be a merry spontaneous three days.

“Betsy Farrow married William Russell on January 5th, 1775, so she was a real person. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1774, the sale was complete as William bought the house next to Auntie Margaret’s Millinery Shop. As always, the gown to be made is fashionable for 1774. Interpretation will include the discussion of the Non-Importation of British goods. We will be interpreting wedding millinery, wedding clothing in general, and specifically, the issues relating to the Agreements of Non-Importation and the ramifications in relation to the Millinery/Mantua-making trades.”

**Public Leather Works** – “The Public Leather Works has moved into their new location, across from the Printing Office, and are officially open. They wish to thank everyone who assisted in the move and those who have visited to see the new shop.”







**Silversmith** – “Two major projects were finished this week, as William and Lynn completed the 5-inch Gurney bowl for Smithfield, and George completed the last steps on the weathervane copper ball. Parker provided the lion’s share of the work on the ball, raising and planishing the two halves (70 of the 85-90 total hours), which George then soldered, filed, and finished. The ball has now been passed to the Blacksmiths for gilding and mounting. After engraving the Smithfield bowl, Lynn has been working on several custom orders as well as a new copper printing plate. Chris is working on the pattern for the spout of her teapot, as well as preparing several smaller components, and finishing a batch of rings for the store.

Preston has nearly finished the tankard body and continues working on several small bowls. George worked a bit on spoons after finishing the ball and then left for vacation. Parker continues his work on the copper punch strainer and has started a silver version. William is now practicing his script engraving.”

