

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER” for August 20 - 26

Apothecary – They did the last Apprentice Tour for the summer. The reproduction bandage is one that Sharon made for burns to the face. [Sharon is in the second picture.] Sharon's work has been ongoing on the Galt records. Robin has been working on a lecture for the local herb society. Some of their members are volunteers that take care of the Apothecary garden.



A participant of the Apprentice Tour tries on the reproduction bandage.



Sharon being “bandaged” by a participant on the Apprentice Tour.

Armoury:

Blacksmith – They are busy with the railing for the Raleigh Porch, repairing springs on pruning shears for the Gardeners, a brace for the Wheelwrights, dividers, scissors, hinges, nail headers, and scrolls for the North Garden Gates at the Palace. This week, the Blacksmiths needed special glasses to notice that nails were eclipsed from their work order.

Tinsmith – They are making kettles, pierced lanterns, speaking trumpets, and cups.

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.

Carpenter – They are framing the ceiling and roof of the Raleigh Tavern Porch. The Carpenter's Yard on Nicholson Street will not be open on Monday, August 21 through Friday, August 25, so that the staff can work entirely at the Raleigh.

Farming - The tobacco is curing well in the Ludwell-Paradise stable and should be ready to strike in about 2-3 weeks. The seed plants left in the field will be cut and hung up to dry this week. This makes way for more cowpeas and turnips. The whole vine and peas were pulled out when mature in late fall, cured, and used for livestock feed. Turnips are great human and sheep food. The Farmers have harvested their first watermelon: a nice twenty pounder!

Foundry – The Founders poured silver yesterday, mostly for the Silversmiths. They are counterfeiting Spanish Dollars for Prentis Store and will be casting even more in the coming weeks for some visiting coin collectors. Layne is about to finish another marrow spoon, and Mike will be finishing his special bronze item in a day or so. Megan has been making pewter teaspoons and tablespoons, as well as filing on some of the silver castings. Layne is also learning to cast the bowl end of some stuffing spoons, which can be notoriously troublesome.



Spanish Dollars

Gunsmith – Darrin travelled to the Contemporary Longrifle Association Show in Lexington, Kentucky, this weekend to represent some of the Williamsburg Gunshop's work. Meanwhile, in the shop, Eric's head fell off... of his hammer, so he is making a new handle today. He will be back to work in the smith shop tomorrow. Richard has been assisting Darrin with a bullet mold for the pistols he has been working on.

Joinery – The Joiners are hard at work constructing a coal box for the Gunsmiths. It will provide space to conveniently store a ton of coal. An actual ton, as in 2,000 pounds worth. The entire project has been planned and implemented by the Apprentices, so we'll see what the box looks like when they finish...

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. Also, they continue to work on their musket projects and to engage in research projects.

Music – The Music Department is so done with summertime. They are using the meditative exercise of visualization to pretend that it is not 90 degrees with 1000% humidity, but rather the crisp, temperate month of October. In other words, they are beginning to put together a concert program for Halloween.

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.

Bookbinding - Don has completed a book for a donor. Barbara is almost finished with her second book, to be used by an Actor Interpreter. Work on Dispatch Cases continues, and Dale is working on various books to be used in the Historic Area.

Silversmith – The Silversmiths are making much hollowware. William is now plannishing his first copper bowl. Preston, George, and Chris are devoting much time to the Monteith.



Preston and George both working on the Monteith.

Bobbie is making a pair of dram cups, which will be available for sale. She is also making a reproduction of the Botetourt coffin plate. Parker is close to finishing his Thistle cup, which is for a custom order.



The reproduction of the Botetourt coffin plate.



Parker working on the Thistle Cup.

Wigmaker – Base construction continues! All three bases had their outline tape nailed down and then, as happens on occasion, a setback occurred! The tape that Betty and Sara originally used for James Ingram’s wig (the reddish tape seen in the photos) started to fray as Sara began stitching the netting to the outline tape. So, Sara will start over with a different outline tape that she will be dyeing a darker shade. General maintenance, never to be forgotten, also continues as the heat of the summer or sudden thunderstorms forces the ladies and gentleman of the city to bring in their wigs and hairpieces

for needed services. A note to our colleagues: hairpieces in particular, and wigs when appropriate, are available to be issued for those seeking to augment their appearances. Just stop by the shop or email one of the Wigmakers if you would like be outfitted with new hair.

