

# THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

for June 12 - 18

It is with great sadness that the Department reports the death of former Master of the Foundry George "Doc" Hassell on Friday, June 3rd. An informal gathering under the large live oak behind the Courthouse and in front of the St. George Tucker House is being planned, to be held in the next couple of weeks at the end of the program day when "On To Yorktown" is over (5:30 or 5:45pm).

## Armoury -

**Blacksmith** - They are working on more strap hinges for Jefferson's Monticello and finishing up a 3 bolt lock. They are starting to work on hand rails for the Spinner & Weaver Shop, tasting spoons and door pulls for the Prentis Store, door handles for the Liberty Lounge, tooling for their shop, and nails.

**Tinshop** - They are making watering cans, cups for Prentis Store, funnels, and measuring cups.

**Artificer** - They are pleased to report that Intern Jan Tilley will be traveling to Old Sturbridge Village to examine a surviving pair of buckskin breeches belonging to former slave Jack Duffey. Mr. Tilley plans to study construction details and reproduce the breeches to enhance our understanding and interpretation of slave clothing.

**Basketmaker** - They have moved to their outdoor Summer area behind the arbor in the Wythe yard. They are finishing up a large oval basket, covering a small water bottle for Coach and Livestock, and of course, splitting white oak.

**Brickmaker** - The Brickmaker is now open seven days a week.

**Candlemaker** - They are seeing more guests in the hands-on program. They are also making more candles now that the rain has (mercifully!) abated. In warm weather, the Candlemakers work in beeswax and produce candles by the historic methods of dipping and molding. If fair weather holds, they will experiment with the production of candle waxes and tallow by historic methods.

**Cooper** - They welcome Harry Taylor III to the shop as an Intern for the Summer. They are working on wine barrels for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

**Foundry** - They are producing work for the Prentis Store and producing custom work as well.

**Historic Garden** - They are happy about the beautiful weather this week but what a "To Do" list they have! So many things to catch up on and get going before the hot Summer really gets underway. Peas have been picked and pulled, making way for beans. Lettuce is done, and the Gardeners are working on saving seeds. The Junior Interpreter bed is coming along very nicely. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, a new and exciting change will be happening: the orchard will be transformed. They are planning to chop down all the old fruit trees on Friday and work on turning the space into new garden beds!

**Joinery** - They will be working on an entire wall of shelving that will be installed in the new Tailor Shop. The shop will likely be covered in wood shavings as they plane the boards down to the proper size and shape.

**Military Programs** - They have now begun training the new militia class in the art and mystery of the musket.

Additionally, the staff is both extensively physically preparing the site of the Encampment and finalizing interpretive programming for the June 20th opening. The Encampment will be open each day from 10:00am-2:00pm. The "Running of the Engine" program is now being done 3 times daily.

**Milliner and Mantua-maker** - They will be working on women's waistcoats and under petticoats.

**Printer** – The Pressmen are finishing the last copies of *The Articles of Confederation*. Soon, the press will be churning out sheets again for Mr. Jefferson's *A Summary View*. Typesetting will soon begin for a new gazette.

**Shoemaker** - They are working on common shoes and pumps. Mending is being done at the Armoury a few days each week as they interpret the work of the Publick Shoemakers during the war years. In the next month or so, they will also be experimenting with a period waterproofing recipe, which will be applied to two pairs of common shoes.

**Silversmith** - One of the Journeymen has begun making two 11 in. square salters. Work continues on a couple of Washington Camp cups, a chamber stick, teaspoons, mote spoons, tablespoons, desert spoons, salt shovels, meat skewers, ladles, a pair of fish trowels, a pair of small sauce boats, a 12in. Montieth, a 3 ¼ in. bowl, some fluted bowls, a pair of patty pans, trade silver jewelry, rings, and letter charms.

It must be said 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.

**Wheelwright** - They continue to work on the ox wagon.

**Wigmaker** – They had eight wigs come in this week for wash and redress (these are the wigs worn by the actors, dancers, and musicians.) Blonde ladies curls for Whitney Thornberry are now done, and they had hair left over for a braid for her as well! Debbie is now finishing attaching the wefts of hair to the back of the lower base of her 18th-century German reproduction wig. Regina is getting ready to attend the ALHFAM Conference.



Their new Apprentice, Sara, has been washing and restyling wigs, completed two hairpieces, and made new bows (picture to the left) for the shop this week!

Their Intern, Georgia, is working on dismantling the hair from a damaged wig base so that it can be repaired. She also wove hair for Mrs. Campbell's curls and braid hairpiece. Emily, Danielle and Maddy, (their fabulous JI's) got a chance to wash wigs behind the shop in the big washing tub, and they start learning how to make bows & bags this weekend.

Below are the "Styles of the Week:"

