

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

for the week of November 15 - 21

Apothecary – Sharon continues to work on winter training. They have been working with the newest Trades floating interpreter, Tim Logue, on learning details about the shop. They also met with one of the new script writers for the Actor/Interpreters about background for a new program.

Artificer's Shop – At present, they are caught up with all outstanding projects. Now would be a good time to let them know of any upcoming needs for your work units, so that they can be budgeted and prioritized. Any images or citations that you are able to provide are most helpful as research time is at a premium for them.

Basketmaker – They are closed for the Wythe Property maintenance and will re-open on Sunday, Nov 22nd.

Bindery – They continue to work on a rule book for the Cabinetmaker and a music book. They have begun working on a custom order (a full-bound ledger), making books for the Prentis, and restoring a “Book of Common Prayer” for one of the Actor/Interpreters.

Brickmaker – The bricks made this summer will be fired this week. “Firing the Brick Kiln” will occur Wednesday, Nov 18th through Sunday, Nov 22nd. The site will be open to the public from 9:00am to 10:00pm on Nov 18-21. On Nov 22, the hours will be 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Cabinetmaker – The six side chairs have been delivered to Prentis Store, and they are in the initial stages of work on two pedestal music stands and a decorated tea caddy. Work continues on the wing chair and spinet.

Candlemaker – Staff worked on finding furnishings for the shop and writing job descriptions for the candlemakers. Nothing conclusive yet; both projects are in process. They also worked on finding authentic source products for candlemaking materials, as acquiring materials is part of the trade.

Carpenters – They are building a shed and making shingles.

Coopers – They are back to working on the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation order for 18-gal kilderkins (kils).

Foodways – The next Brewing program is Wednesday, November 18th.

Great Hopes Plantation –

They knocked out all of the old chinking in the Slave House and will be re-daubing this and next week.

Farming: They are building nine-foot-high split-rail fences and hauling in new rails with oxen. They are also picking seeds out of cotton and doing various woodworking projects.

Domestic Arts: They are cooking beef roast with vegetables out of their own garden and making pies with blackberries gathered this summer. They continue to wash wool for spinning.

Windmill: The final site grading will be done by a contractor this week. Terry Thon and Steve Chabra spent time looking through the Grissel Hay stable looking for mill-related items. They found a brand-new set of handmill stones that Steve plans on using to create a geared handmill/quern. Ben Hasset, the millwright, returns in a week to finish repairs to the mill.

Gun Shop/Foundry –The Founders are polishing 15 pewter candlesticks and working on spoons for Prentis Store. The Gunsmiths are engraving a flintlock and making springs for the pair of pistol locks.

Historic Garden – The brick pad is finished and is now ready for the bench. They are pruning flowers in the perennial bed to get ready for winter. All of the tomatoes are finally pulled and now the bed is being prepared to plant broad beans in the next week or so. They have finally started the re-covering of the paper melon frames. They have cleaned off last year's paper and glue and replaced rotted staves. They will be re-papering and painting the frames with linseed oil this weekend. The broccoli has gotten larger and thus needed to be mounded up. They continue to blanch endive, and that is working very well. They will be bringing some of that and an abundance of kale to the kitchen soon. They also have been blanching the cardoon which has been covered for a fortnight. It will likely be uncovered soon and harvested. All of the cabbages are developing nicely and will be lovely once a frost has come.

Joiners – They will be working on the Market House punch list and register crates.

Millinery – They are going to finally get started on the ermine muff and continue working on the repair of two pairs of stays and a gown for customers.

Printers – They are printing The Beggar's Opera theatre bill in red this next week.

Shoemaker – Work is progressing on a pair of common shoes for one of the Tinsmiths and on the half boots for Great Hopes. They have begun making blackball and will be presenting this at the Armory later in the month.

Silversmith – They are working on various sorts of spoons (including mote spoons), salt shovels, Gurney Bowls and a fluted bowl, a pair of patty pans, a small dram cup, a pair of raised beakers, a small punch cup, trade silver jewelry, rings, and letter charms, a 12-inch Montieth, and ladles.

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 – They are patterning and constructing knit fabric breeches and working with visiting fellow Anne Bissonnette on new research regarding Macaroni dress.

Weaver – They have completed 3 more double weave blankets. They have switched to putting handspun cotton in the weft for toweling. They are getting ready for "Fleece to Fabric" on Saturday morning, where all the steps in creating fabric will be shown, using our Leicester Longwool.

Wheelwright – They continue to repair the ox cart.

Wigmaker – They are constructing a Bob Wig, comprised of human and horse hair, which Debbie saw in Germany, a wiglet for one of the AI's, and a hand-knotted base for a new wig for Richard Schuman (Patrick Henry). They also continue to do daily maintenance on wigs used by CW staff to support various programming (plays, Ghost Tours, Rev City, and commercials).

On Thursday, November 12th, several members of the Trades Department helped to move a large quantity of our wood from the warehouse to various locations in the Historic Area.

From Karen Clancy: "I worked with a great bunch of colleagues today in moving A LOT of wood that will serve us all. Thanks for letting me tag along! Pictures to prove it." Pictures are below:



