

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

For August 11 - 17

Armoury:

Tinsmith – “An effort was made this week to relocate a pair of fish from the garden cistern to the rain barrel under the new gutter. The new residents seem quite happy with their accommodations. Steve has been working on a pair of small coffee pots (best for the casual coffee drinkers). Joel is making a series of tinderboxes for Prentis Store, while continuing his research. Jenny continues to work on coffee pots, focusing on lids.”

Colonial Garden – “The August heat and intermittent storms remind us that summer is coming to a close. Our plants that have yielded copious amounts of fruit all season-long show the wear of their production. The Gardeners work hard to sit down and draw up the fall and winter plan for the Garden. We continue to harvest melons such as the Zatta melon, which is pictured. We wait for the watermelons, which won’t be too much longer. Tomatoes, squash, and peppers continue to produce, as well as the lima beans.



“We had a visitor in our Garden that usually just saunters by, but on this day, he came into the Garden. The Marquis de Lafayette, astride Ajax, stopped in to be immortalized in an image along with the entire summer Garden crew. Other notable visitors to our Garden are two young ladies who came to help harvest potatoes. They are frequent visitors and have helped in all facets of gardening.





“And lest we forget, many thanks to all those that support our efforts. The Blacksmiths repaired our iron hoops this week. The iron stakes with a hoop attached are used to prop up our tall flowers. Huzzah to Foodways, who turn our harvest into an educational visual delight, and to Chef Matthias at the Inn, who cooks up and serves our produce, flowers, and whatever else he finds in our Garden to our guests. It is truly satisfying to know that someone is eating a meal from our Garden.

“Sadly, we have to note that the deer has not really left the Garden, she just grazed somewhere else for a few days. We believe that upon her return, she brought along a rabbit and a few more squirrels for company.”

Farming – “The tobacco is all cut and curing pretty well. It re-sprouts off the old stalk, and some of the “seconds” are being allowed to come back so that guests can see it longer. These were illegal to cultivate in the 18th century because the inferior quality of the leaf and too much tobacco on the market would reduce the price for everyone. Just don’t tell the Sheriff, okay? Also, planting turnips that were sometimes used to feed sheep, and carrots that were experimented with to use in place of oats for horses. Pulling all the blades off the corn plants to be tied into bundles of fodder.”



A modern farm family meets a historic Farmer and plants turnips by hand the hard way!

Joinery – “At the Joinery, Scott is laying out parts for his newest food safe. He has procured some gorgeous pieces of black walnut to work with. Peter is raising panels and assembling the door for his hanging cupboard, and hoping that it will fit properly without a lot of weeping, gnashing of teeth, rolling in ashes, etc. Amanda is coping the moldings for her panel door and will then start to raise panels of her own. This Thursday marks Charles’ last full week in the Joinery before he returns to school, and he will spend it working on a bottom and lid for a small chest that he is building.”

Military Programs – “The State Garrison is pleased to announce the addition of a 3- pound Brass Cannon to our battery. Test fires were successful, and the Artillery crew is looking forward to working with the new piece.”

Milliner and Mantua-Maker – “The author finds it necessary to remind my readers that any inquiries as to my identity will not be found fruitful, as my agents have once again reported that a gentleman was asking after Mrs. Crackenthorpe at a Mistress H---'s millinery Thursday last. (This gentleman also let slip that he perceived the news I share with my readers to be gossip! This shall not stand. I report only the best and most interesting news of this city, all of which has been verified by the surest means.) This week, the residents of this city have been still but for rumours that Mrs. W-- (of Mistress H---'s Shop) sent her apprentices out on Saturday last to court the favour of Widow C--- who was found in the company of Col. W---. The three apprentices were unmatched in excitement after witnessing those two individuals together, with one apprentice in particular speculating that the Soldier and the Widow would be wed by spring. (Whether any particularly large sum of currency was exchanged during said speculation, this author knows not, but for to say the Mistress of the shop certainly would not approve.)

“It is my dearest hope that as the weather improves, so too will the amount of correspondence I receive to be published here. Until then, I encourage my readers to continue to deliver their missives by the usual means.”

Public Leather Works – “The bed leathers were successfully delivered to Ferry Farm. Jan and Andrew have completed a number of folios for their colleagues. Most importantly, however, Jay is back to work, doing half days in the office as he continues to recover. We are very glad to have him back.”

Silversmith – “Bobbie has started polishing the first spice caster and is nearly finished with the second. She has also started working again on the lid for the tankard. Chris is raising the body and lid of her teapot. Preston is working on several small fluted bowls and continues raising the body of the tankard. George has been working on spoons and chasing tools. Parker is raising the second half of the copper ball. William has returned from a whirlwind-but-much-needed respite and has jumped right back in to engraving letter charms and preparing to work on several pieces.”



A small taste of the plethora of former Gorham Company chasing tools which still remain to be refurbished.