

# THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

## for the week of December 14 - 20

**Apothecary** – Steve Delisle made them a new reproduction strainer. It looks great. Thank you, Steve!!

They are starting a new project for a podcast for PPLV. Sharon is polishing details on winter training on medicine, and Robin is continuing with research support for an A.I. program on midwifery.

### **Armoury:**

**Blacksmith** – They are working on tools for the Farmers and Wheelwrights, including claw hammers, mattocks, and log dogs. They are also making a sign bracket for the Pitt Store, a small box iron, and are about to start on sickles.

**Tin Shop** – They continue to make glazed lanterns for use in the new Trades shops, and a punched lantern for its own interpretation. They are also making teapots and cups, and just finished a small colander for the Apothecary.

**Artificer's Shop** – They are filling a variety of work orders from various Colonial Williamsburg departments. Please be advised that work requests must be submitted by email to [jhowlett@cwf.org](mailto:jhowlett@cwf.org) and copied to [smonaco@cwf.org](mailto:smonaco@cwf.org).

**Basketmaker** – They are making baskets for Prentis Store for Christmas sales.

**Bindery** – They continue to work on a music book and binding law books.

**Brickmaker** – The Brickyard is closed for the season. However, on days when the weather is favorable, they will open the Brickyard and work on dismantling the clamp. Just look for the flag.

**Cabinetmaker** – Work continues on two pedestal music stands, a decorated tea caddy, a wing chair, and a spinet.

**Candlemaker** – Preparations continue for the new shop. Paperwork for the Candlemaker job description was advanced again. After discussions with Trish Barner, volunteer and Junior Interpreter job descriptions are being created.

Robert Watson of AAI agreed to help train the new candlemakers in the art of dipping candles. Robert has great skill in candlemaking, and his input will be valuable.

Tom Redd arranged to meet with Joe Beatty in Training to discuss the shop interpretation and training of the new interpreters. Tom also made contact with several people involved in media relations, in preparation for creating a media plan.

Artificer Jay Howlett agreed he could make leather aprons for the candlemakers but felt fabric was probably a better choice. This request was put on hold and the Milliners were called. Janea Whitacre agreed to look into making authentic, fabric aprons for the shop. Tom sent her the 1981 Candlemaking Research Report,

showing various images from Gentleman's Magazine. Janea said the Milliners love making period correct work clothes, and everyone will be interested in the solutions the Milliners find.

Ted Boscana reported that the Joiners completed the tables for the shop, and they are now working on stools.



**Carpenters** – They are building a shed and making shingles.

**Coopers** – They are making casks for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

**Foodways** – As a nod to the Scottish heritage of Lord Dunmore, Foodways staff has been experimenting with making haggis. Though it is highly doubtful a high-born Lord would have eaten this working-class sausage, it gives the staff the chance to work with the offal produced in the butchering process.

Additionally, the staff has made ginger wine in addition to their brewing program. The drink, which takes almost two months to produce, tastes like a mildly alcoholic ginger ale. Plans are in the works to make both ginger and molasses beer in the coming months.

Kimberly Costa, as part of the requirements of her Apprenticeship, will be providing a new program entitled "A Cook's Walking Tour", which will take place on April 3rd and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and will cover both sides of the Historic Area. Guests will have a chance to learn about the messy side of 18<sup>th</sup>-century food production while visiting original buildings such as dairies, smoke houses, and kitchens. It is hoped that the program will be included as a permanent part of their special programs.

**Great Hopes Plantation** –

**Farming:** The cotton season is finished, and they have grubbed out all the cotton plants and plowed the land. They continue to haul in compost for the gardens and work on various farm repair and woodworking projects. They have said farewell to the hogs, who have left the site and will be butchered at the “Hogs to Ham” program at the Palace this Saturday. Matt Sanbury will be assisting Foodways in the butchering.

**Domestic Arts:** They are cooking tart of spinach, sweet potato pudding, and oysters in the Kitchen, spreading compost and dirt in the gardens, and carding Hog Island sheep wool. Stef Dunn will cook a dish of tart of spinach with Chef Travis Brust for a Chefs Association meeting at the Inn this Saturday.

**Windmill:** **The windmill was operated for the first time since 2003 last Thursday, December 3, 2015!!** They made about 10 pounds of cracked corn that was delivered to Coach and Livestock to be used as chicken scratch.

This past week, Steve Chabra completed installation of the mill's collar. The new collar arrangement will help steady the mill by acting as a lower bearing when the mill is rotated on the great post. He has also moved fence rails closer to where they will be needed on the new mill site. Next week, he will be working on the new railings for the ladder.

**Gun Shop/Foundry** – George Suiter successfully proof tested his rifle barrel on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> by loading it with 4 normal charges of powder and a bullet and lighting it with a LLLLong fuse. This was done twice. This is the same test as used in the 18th century. Stocking the rifle begins today. The work on the cased pair of pistols continues. The Founders continue work on the pewter stuffing spoons and counterfeit coins.

**Historic Garden** – Winter-izing has begun. They are cutting sticks to make hoops and structures to put canvas over the broccoli and the artichokes when it gets cold. They are also starting to think about the hotbeds and what might go in them when they start them the second week of January. Lots of tidying up and making sure the garden stays clean.

**Joiners** – Design work continues on the gazebo for the Woodworking Conference, and a new cutting bench for the Artificer’s Shop is underway.

**Printers** – The pressmen continue to print the black for the Beggar’s Opera playbill. This two color playbill was printed by William Rind for the old theatre near the Capitol in 1768.

**Tailors** – They are continuing work on various cuts of knit breeches and working on a pea-green broadcloth suit lined in pink silk.

**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).