

THE MECHANICK'S ADVISER

August 26, 2022

Anthony Hay Shop:

Cabinetmaker – This week, John is putting the finishing touches on his tea table, adding the final coat of wax that will wrap up this quick project. It will soon be up for sale at the Cabinet Shop, so please come by and have a look if you are interested! We also have for sale a black walnut sideboard table with drawer, photo also attached.

Jeremy has been getting good time in on his hanging cupboard and is almost ready to start the door construction. Bill has been putting some time into an elaborate writing desk, working on the top board of mahogany, and adding the decorative molding that goes around the edge.



Tea table



Sideboard table

The Cabinetmaker and Harpsichord-maker are open Daily.

Apothecary – Busy as always here, as the summer winds down. Sharon finished cataloging pharmaceutical receipts and is back to transcribing her favorite microfilms (the Galt-Barraud account books) and enjoying celebratory dark chocolate. Mark is perusing the print and online collections of eighteenth-century medical artifacts owned by other museums. One museum in particular is intriguing: the Meguro Parasitological Museum in Tokyo. He is attempting to persuade Sharon to send him there, as on-site research will obviously benefit the Shop. Margaret is having an impromptu Pill-a-Palooza week in which she's been preparing, rolling, and coating antifebrile pills (myrrh and soap, for obstructions) and aloetic pills (aloe and soap, for different obstructions.)



The Apothecary Shop will be open Tuesday (11:30-5:00), Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Armoury:

Blacksmith – The work of the Blacksmiths remains busy as ever. Ken works on large HL hinges, a task that poses different challenges than their smaller counterparts. Mark has finished an eating fork, which likewise acts differently from its larger toasting and pitching cousins. Aislinn works on a punch with which the leather or lead jaws for a flintlock’s cock may be fashioned. She also works on some pipe axes, which require a special “cherry” bit to bore the bowl. Alex works on larger axes, as well as several ladles. Broadus finished a quick rush job to make bolts to mend a brickmold needed to make the bricks for the Bray School, and now must catch up to Josh, who has taken the lead in assembling slide bolts, a project they both work on. As always, all’s well that falls well at the base of the anvil.





The Blacksmith Shop will be open Daily.

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Tinsmith – This week in the Tin Shop, Steve and Jenny continued to work on the order for First State Heritage Park in Delaware. Steve made some small, round boxes similar to snuff boxes. Jenny worked on two square spice boxes this week as a part of the same order. Painting was completed on the hand-lights from the Colonial Gardens, as well as a layer of green paint on the glass lantern Steve was working on last week for a customer. Jenny also presented her apprenticeship research at the Hennage Auditorium on Tuesday, August 23rd. The topic was "An Assemblage of Wares: Tinware in the Virginia Home", which addresses the commonality, cost, and use of tinware in the eighteenth-century consumer's household. Thank you to everyone from Historic Trades and Skills who attended!

The Tin Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

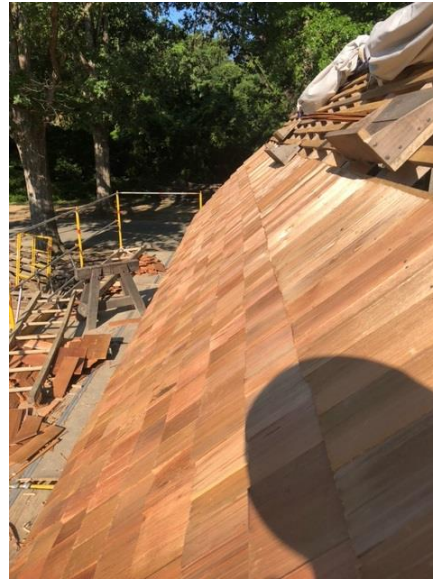
Brickmaker – This week in the Brickyard saw the conclusion of our Brickmaking season, as well as the last week of one of our last remaining Summer Casuals, Katherine. We bid a fond farewell to Katherine and the treading pit and have turned our attention to the building of the kiln. So far, we have planned out the base of the kiln and prepared for paving with a multitude of palletized bricks from the old Yard. Otherwise, this week, we moved some of the last bricks into the drying shed and received a new mold crafted by the Joiners, with shoeing from our friendly neighborhood Blacksmiths. Next week, you will find us pondering the best way to keep our kiln dry during the building process, with ample input from the Carpenters that seem to live in our drying shed.



The Brickyard will be open Sunday through Thursday, weather permitting.

Carpenter – This week in the Carpenters Yard, we cleaned up from finishing the floor and set up to start roofing. A few days in, we are about 1/3 the way up the front side. We will start slowing down now that we

are having to work solely from ladders. If only we could convince the clouds to stick around a bit more.



The Carpenter's Yard will be open Tuesday through Saturday, weather permitting.

Colonial Garden – Learning to save good seed is one of the skills a gardener learns. Cucumber was grown and allowed to over-ripen so that the seeds would be viable. They were harvested and washed, then allowed to “ferment” in a bowl until the outer layer that protects the seed is broken down. The seeds are then washed and allowed to dry on paper atop a screen to allow for good air movement. Once the seeds are dried, they will be placed in a bag and refrigerated until next year, when they will be planted. Then we find out how well we did!



Harvesting cucumber seeds

The Maycock squash that grew in the American Indian food plot was seed planted from our hand-pollinated squash vine from a few years ago. Judging from the nice shapes, and marked green strips, we were successful.

We had help from the Wheelwrights and Foodways. Josh, Abbie, and Dom delivered a table to us to use in the Garden. Thanks for the help; we love the table.

Work continues to clean out beds in the Garden that are done for the season. The turkey cucumber succumbed to some sort of disease brought on by heat and a deluge of rain. The turkey cucumber planted in the hotbed continues to thrive. The front quarter was turned and prepared for winter radishes and spinach. And by the end of this week, the American Indian Garden will be cleaned out, soil turned, chopped, and sown with annual clover for the winter season. It is another hot, dry week, but fall is coming. Days are shortening, which encourages the weeds to set seed as quickly as they can. Armed with trowels and hoes, we persevere against our weedy foe.



Fermenting seeds



Drying cucumber seeds



Ye Olde delivery service

The Colonial Garden will be open Daily, weather permitting.

Cooper – This week, the Coopers trussed the tobacco hogshead we have been working on.



The Cooper Shop will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Engraver – The Engraving Shop will be open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. On Tuesday, August 30th, 4:30 p.m. in the Hennage Auditorium, the Engravers and Founders will present, “Time Conquers All, and We Must Time Obey.” Apprentice Engraver William Fleming explores a brief history of the use and production of sundials and showcases the collaboration between the Engraving Shop and the Foundry in the reproduction of an extant sundial in the Museum Collection.

Foodways – This week at the Palace Kitchen, Apprentices Dom and Abbey assisted with the transfer of a table from the courtyard of the Palace over to our friends at the Colonial Garden. Joel from the Wheelwrights brought up one of their large carts to help load and transport the table. Together, we brought much-appreciated additional working space to the Gardeners, who continue to bless us with goodies they’ve grown for use in the Kitchen. Frank will be joining a podcast over Zoom this week for Fraunces Tavern in New York (George Washington is said to have dined there) to take part in a discussion on historic foods and tavern practices from the 18th century.

The Foodways Staff will be at the Palace Kitchen Sunday through Thursday.

Foundry – This week in Foundry news, work on the Sundial Project with the Engravers has resumed. Journeyman Mike has completed polishing the gnomon (the part that stands up to cast the shadow) and is now cutting out the dial itself from a sheet of bronze. The original dial in the Collection has warped, so we’re using thicker sheet to avoid this problem. Apprentices Leanne and Drew have finished up the Foundry’s section of the upcoming Hennage program with the Engravers. The program is entitled “Time Conquers All, and We Must Time Obey” and will be on Tuesday, August 30th, at 4:30 p.m. They have also been cleaning up the pewter taper candlestick stems they cast last week for their apprenticeships. We have delivered 700 more

musket balls for the Range. We've been told that they should last for a couple of months, so musket ball production will resume shortly.



The Foundry will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday (11:30-5:00).

Gunsmith – The Gunsmith Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Historic Farming – All the tobacco has been cut and is curing pretty well. Note the good color in the leaf shown. Ed came back from vacation to foot-high crab grass in the field and used the hoe plow pulled by Eli the Horse to grub it out. Rough work on a human, but it works. Better than just hoeing it out.



Tobacco hanging to cure in the Ludwell-Paradise Stable



Good color in a curing tobacco leaf

Prentis Field will be open Tuesday through Saturday, weather permitting.

Joinery – The Joinery will be open Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

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Military Programs – Military Interpretation at the Guardhouse is open Daily. Our “Military Activities” at 10 a.m. will consist of either a public drill or our new recruiting program. At 2 p.m. each day, we will have our “Discussion of Military Topics”, where one of our staff members will be discussing a subject of military history and answer questions from the Guests. Musket demonstrations are generally dependent on staff numbers of that day, but typically between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, we will be doing an infantry demonstration at 4:20 p.m. for our “Necessity of Order in Battle” program. We are not doing cannon demonstration at the present time.

Milliner and Mantua-maker – We're thrilled to have Jeanne with us for a special weekend of embroidery. Everyone knows that we Milliners love any excuse to break out our yarns and exchange our plain sewing for some fancy work. Jeanne is tambouring a silk workbag using a design found in *The Lady's Magazine* from February 1781, while Janea continues work on an embroidered petticoat border based on one in the Collection.



Long-term planning has been our focus for much of the week, with ideas for 2023 taking shape in exciting ways. We're working on two programs for “Women's History Month”, in addition to our usual “Gown in a Day” in the summer, plus a spring or summer Family Workshop, and a couple of other surprises along the way. We're also planning two additional, more specialized Workshops for conferences; these are particularly enjoyable to plan because they're presenting an opportunity to explore some projects and concepts in a more in-depth way than the seasonal public Workshops allow. One, our "Companion" Workshop for the *Woodworker's Symposium*, will focus on 18th- and 19th-century pincushions, taking as its inspiration a set of charming "thematic" pincushions both from our Collection and published in ladies' magazines of the period. We've tried a carrot, a bunny, a slipper, a butterfly, and a fish thus far, and hope our attendees will have as much fun with them as we have. The other Workshop, which is for the North American Textile Conservation Conference, which will convene here in October, will be a master class to teach techniques to identify and "read" for the hand of the maker in extant garments.

Besides our embroidery, there are also a number of other projects currently on our worktable. Kate has finished the channels on her stays and now awaits the arrival of the boning. In the meantime, she's made a pair of pockets and has begun stitching on a new wool underpetticoat. Rebecca completed her apron and continues work on her blog post. She and Janea are also preparing for Monday's filming, with some more

strategic disassembly and re-assembly to create a clear construction narrative for each of the gowns. Janea's checked suit of millinery progresses as well, though she's increasingly convinced that rolling a hem takes three times as long as doing it the folded way. We've also received the generous gift of some beeswax pellets from the Founders, which we look forward to turning into wax cakes for thread conditioning and to using in experiments on resist-dyeing fabric.

The Milliner and Mantua-maker will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Music – Kyle, Amy, and Karol played at the Gala for the opening of the Art Museums' new exhibit, "Making Music in Early America." In addition, Kyle gave the Guests a taste of the sound of one of the exhibit's highlights, the organized piano. An organized piano was both piano and organ – and the two mechanisms could be joined to play at the same time. Kyle is also practicing on the organized piano for a presentation on its owner, Ann Barraud, a Williamsburg resident and musician.

Jenny is still working on her African American music research. Karol continues her dive into political rhetoric in music. Brady is giving his Hennage presentation on the last two viola da gamba virtuosi and is working on his October Hennage presentation on lyricist Isaac Bickerstaff. Best to all.

Printer and Bookbinder:

Printing Office – The Pressmen have received two newly turned ink stocks from William Simmons. Over the next few weeks, we will evaluate how they perform. These stocks are made of kiln dried maple glued up then turned in a lathe.



The Printing Office will be open Tuesday (10:00-5:00), Wednesday, Friday (11:30-5:00), and Saturday.

Bindery – Good day, all! This August, I had the honor of being sent to the North Bennet Street School in Boston for a weeklong class in the fundamentals of blind and gold-tooling with the great Samuel Feinstein! Firstly, a great, big thank you to Shari Monaco for the time and attention she took to make sure my trip went off seamlessly! And thank you to all who made this happen, including our Director of Trades and Skills, Ted Boscana, and Dale Dippre, the Senior Journeyman and Supervisor of the Bookbindery. I would like to acknowledge Dana Copeland and Martha Webb for their kindness, patronage, and support of our Foundation, and me, personally. I am grateful and excited to bring what I learned home to the Colonial Williamsburg Bookbindery Program! This will be a series, as there is much to relay. I will start with pictures of my final project, and a shout out to the talented instructor, Samuel Feinstein, Designer Bookbinder Extraordinaire. Sam made a difficult skill extremely accessible to the lay person - that's me!



This was Sam's first in-person workshop since 2019, and he rocked it! He covered so many topics with the basics being: straight lines (I was actually able to make some by the end of the class!), decorative tooling with wheels and stamps, blind-tooling, and gold tooling with both shellac and egg glair. Here are a few pictures, with more to come in the following weeks, as I sift through all that I learned.



Samuel Feinstein and Me

Cheers! XO

The Bookbindery will be open Sunday (11:30-5:00), Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

Public Leather Works – The Public Leather Works will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Shoemaker – The Shoemakers were starting to give Guests reason to believe the old adage, “the cobbler’s children have no shoes,” so we’ve pulled a few pairs out of inventory to wear while our own shoes get added to the repair queue. Victoria has started a second pair of slippers after the successful completion of her first pair. She’ll begin her foray into cobbling by resoling the shoes Rob made her four years ago. We have a few fellow Tradespeople who’ve also had their shoes for four years or more. With all the time we spend on our feet at CW, getting your shoes to last that long means you’ve been diligent in taking care of them and getting them back to us to repair in a timely manner, so thank you! Our new/replacement order list is fairly extensive, but we’ll be reaching out to folks waiting to be measured or remeasured shortly. Val and Nicole are chipping away at our current repair list alongside our other projects.

We’re preparing for our final summer Workshop. During our research time, we continue to look into infant shoes and increase our understanding of some of our allied trades, specifically tanning, currying, and last making.

The Shoemakers will be at the Armoury on Sunday, Monday (11:30-5:00), Thursday, and Saturday.

Silversmith – Work continues in the Silversmith Shop as we work our way through projects. Bobbie’s tray has turned out wonderfully, and now, the early stages of polishing can begin. Tam is stoning the tray with a Water of Ayr stone, a fine-grain slate that will sand away imperfections. Megan is continuing to raise her silver bowls, scribing the fish trowel, and has learned how to solder rings with a blow torch. Chris is working on chasing in the silver tray body and has now set it in a pitch board to get some finer details. Preston is instructing Megan on how to raise her bowls as well as working on his chased bowls. George has been forging out teaspoons from his wire blanks. Bobbie and Megan are preparing for their research trip in September, and Chris is gathering notes for her trip to the Winterthur Museum in Delaware.



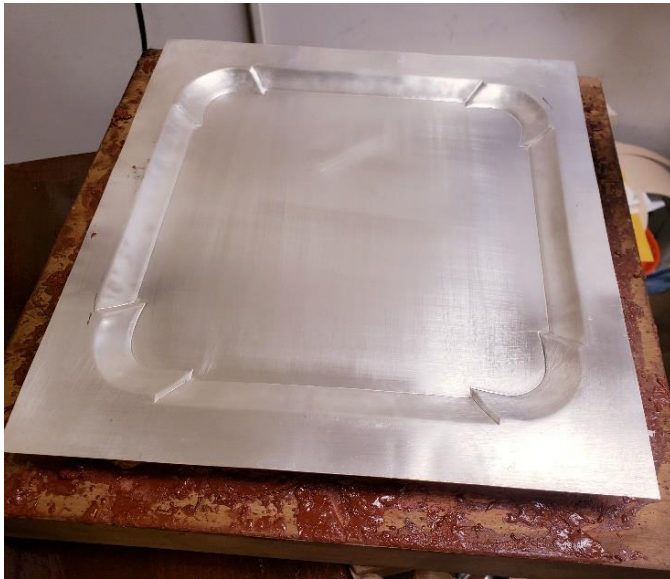
Tam stoning the silver tray



Megan preparing rings for soldering



A close up of the soldering station



Chris' tray set in the pitch board for finer chasing



Preston's fluted bowl



George's in-progress teaspoons

The Silversmith Shop will be open Sunday through Wednesday, Thursday (11:30-5:00), and Saturday.

Tailor – These last two weeks have been busy in the Tailor Shop. Journeyman McCarty's lecture in the Hennage Auditorium on what types of clothing were worn in an 18th-century summer was very well received. Apprentice Logue measured, patterned, cut, and began stitching on a pair of trousers for Apprentice Marc in the Garden. Logue also patterned and cut a stout linen jacket that the entire Shop stitched on together to finish in a few days' time.

The Tailor Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Weaving, Spinning, and Dyeing – Things are moving along smoothly at the Weavers, as we prepare for Dye Day. Our two dimities, the textured white fabric destined for the Conservation Department, are

coming along well, with one nearly completed. The next project for that loom is nearly ready to go; another is in the works, and several more planned. We can't wait to show you what we have in store!

The Weaving Shop will be open Tuesday through Saturday.

Wheelwright – Having painted the majority of his cart repair, Master Wheelwright Paul is getting a head start on a new hack barrow for Masonry Trades. Its wheel isn't spoked but made of multiple boards that are cut into a round shape. As seen in the photo below, Paul achieves this by using a compass to scribe out the arc. Speaking of round things, one of the wheels for the Apprentice handcart project has been spidered out, its spokes installed into the hub. The back of the spoke is shaped with a drawknife to fit its corresponding mortice, and then forced into position with a sledge. With each blow of the sledge, the spoke's position is checked often with the spoke set gauge that's bolted to the hub face. After its mate has been spidered, a marking gauge will be used to mark the spoke tenons for its fellies. Be sure to come by the Deane and check it out! Eighteenth-century paint and coach painting research has been done this week, along with hack barrow design research using William Henry Pyne's *Microcosm*.



The Wheelwright Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Wigmaker – Greetings! This week Edith has been practicing ladies' hairstyles. The Milliners have fantastic display blocks, and Edith has based one style from a print in the British Museum's collection to show off the fantastic millinery. She has also made headway on her hand knotting and is still eagerly awaiting supplies to finish Jefferson's wig. Benton has been studiously working on the Brigadier wig, and this week, reached out to Master Tailor Hutter for aid in translating a German unit of measure. Thank you to Master Hutter for taking the time to help Benton! Lexie continues to work on her newest hairpiece and is assisting Edith in hemming some toweling for the Shop. Debbie has been working on maintenance and a new hand knotted base. Preparation continues for our Fall Workshop, as well. As a reminder, we will be out of the Shop the first two weeks of October. Please make sure to bring in any hair needs by September 18th, so we can ensure you get your items back in time. As always, please feel free to reach out to us for any tonsorial or hair care needs.



The Wig Shop will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The Mechanick's Adviser is a publication of the Colonial Williamsburg Department of Historic Trades & Skills.

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