



Artist Profile

William “Wild Willy” Frankfort

In addition to his roles as cartographer, illustrator, calligrapher, author, re-enactor, and experimental archaeologist, Wild Willy is also a skilled hornmaker and a master scrimshaw artist. A graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Willy has been recreating authentic 18th century powder horns and other early American artifacts for over 10 years, and can be seen at many re-enactments, period shows, and historical conferences throughout West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. In his home library, he has one of the best private collections of primary sources on frontier history in western Pennsylvania.

Since 1994, Willy has immersed himself in the 18th century, taking frontier living classes where he has learned important skills such as learning how to drive oxen, making stick and mud chimneys, squaring logs for a frontier cabin, and the art of early blacksmithing. Willy is also active in the Washington County Historical Society, The Rangers of the Ohio Company, the 1st Virginia Regiment, and the Oliver Miller Homestead.



Powder horn made by William Frankfort