

JEFF LUKE: CONTEMPORARY OHIO FRONTIER CRAFTSMAN

BY MARK BENDER

Ohio has many contemporary craftsmen who create an array of items used on the Ohio frontier in the late 18th century and well into the statehood period up past the Civil War. One such contemporary craftsmen is Jeff Luke, of Marietta, Ohio, who in the last decade has dedicated his spare time to learning various frontier crafts. According to information supplied by Jeff, he is 53 years old and was born and raised in Marietta Ohio where he still returns annually to deer hunt with his family. Jeff has always enjoyed hunting, fishing and learning about the history of our country.

Jeff notes that, "I purchased my first traditional muzzleloader around 2015, a cheap reproduction cap lock Kentucky rifle. Since then I've acquired several custom built flintlock and percussion rifles and pistols, which I enjoy shooting with family and friends. One my

favorites is an iron mounted .36 caliber Tennessee style flintlock rifle built by fellow muzzleloading enthusiast and Ohioan, Danny Coler."

Jeff began building hunting/shooting pouches and other muzzleloading and historic leather accoutrements shortly after his new interest was sparked. In 2018 he was already recognized by the Contemporary Longrifle Association as one of the new and aspiring artists of the CLA. He is an active member of both the CLA and NMLRA, to which he regularly donates pieces of his



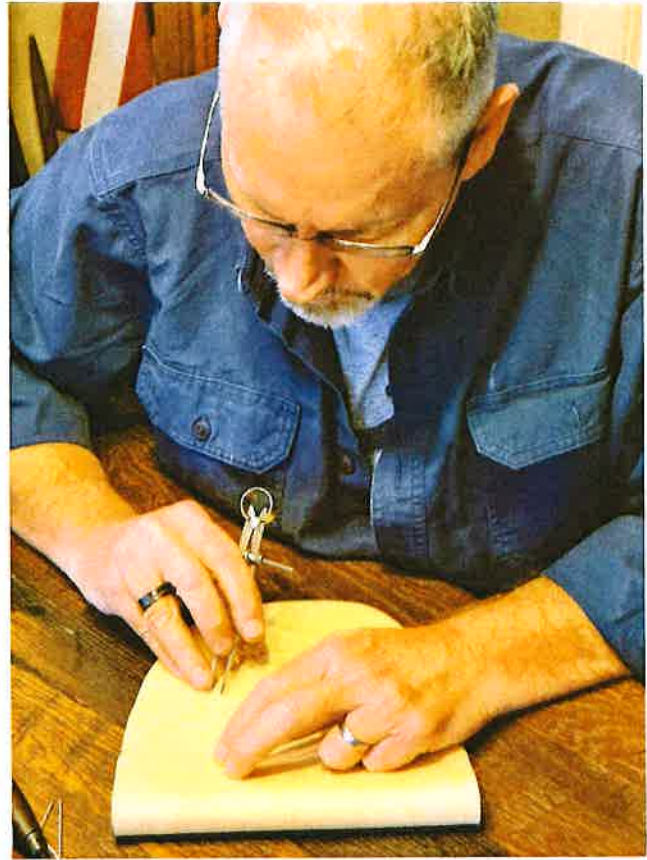
Jeff Luke laying out a shooting pouch. (photo courtesy of author)



A frontier style smoking bag crafted by Jeff Luke. (photo courtesy of author)



A frontier style fire steel and bag crafted by Jeff Luke. (photo courtesy of author)



Jeff Luke laying out a shooting pouch. (photo courtesy of author)



A frontier style shooting pouch crafted by Jeff Luke. (photo courtesy of author)



Detail from mid-19th century Ohio shooting pouch with stamped decoration (courtesy of Jim Claggett; photo by Mark Bender)