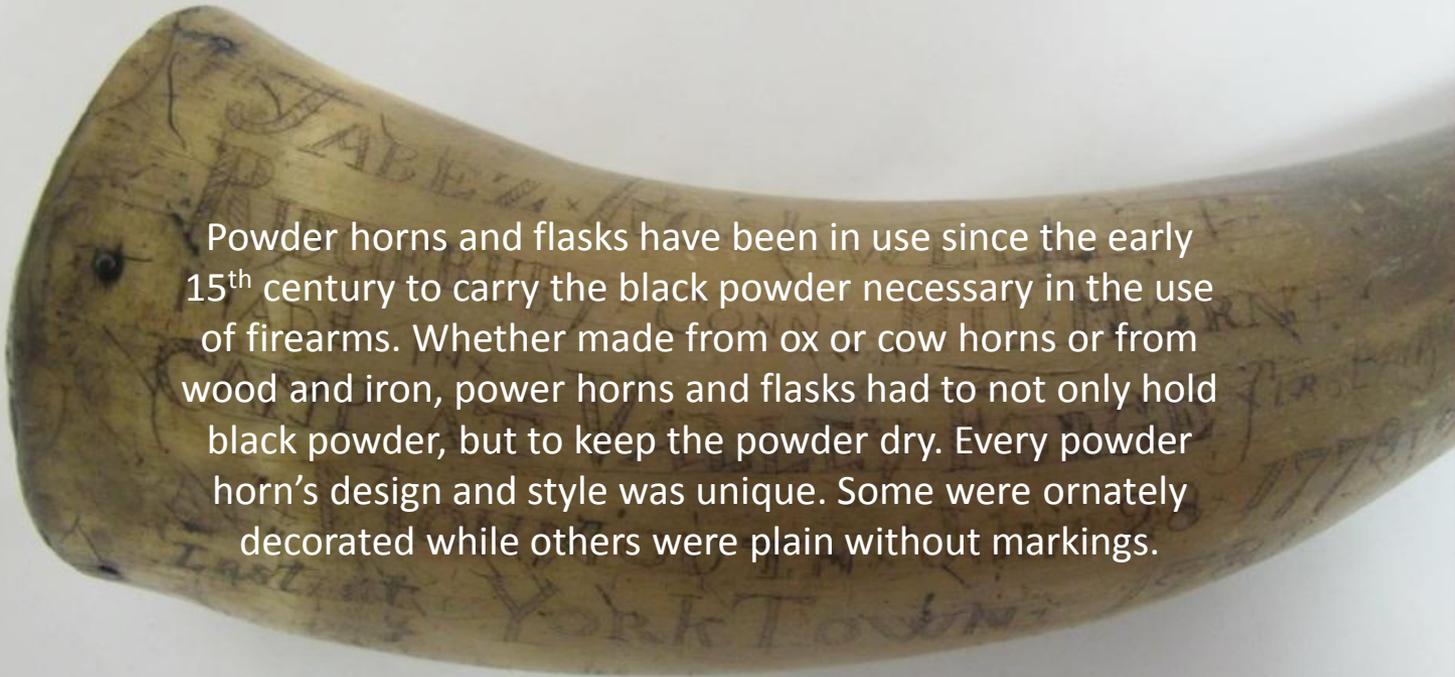


15th - 18th Century Powder Horns and Flasks

From the Collections of
Valley Forge National Historical Park



A photograph of a curved powder horn, likely made of animal horn, showing handwritten text in dark ink. The text is arranged in several lines along the curve of the horn. The most legible words include 'JABE', 'York Town', and '1781'. There are also some decorative flourishes and smaller, less legible markings scattered across the surface.

Powder horns and flasks have been in use since the early 15th century to carry the black powder necessary in the use of firearms. Whether made from ox or cow horns or from wood and iron, powder horns and flasks had to not only hold black powder, but to keep the powder dry. Every powder horn's design and style was unique. Some were ornately decorated while others were plain without markings.

European Powder Flask, c. 1401-1500



- Iron and wood
- Spring tension spout
- Iron belt clip on one side



Italian Powder Flask, c. 1550-1600



- Round face with coat of arms
- Iron spring spout

English Sporting Powder Flask



- Hinged top with small brass padlock
- Number "2" formed on base



Powder Horn, c. 1600-1650



- "Capt Hy MORGAN" engraved on the wood stopper
- Crude skull and cross bones are carved into the end plug

European Powder Flask, 17th Century



- Iron floret in center of reverse face
- Iron belt clip on side



Powder Flask, c. 1700-1780



- Leather shoulder strap
- Shot pouch is attached by a leather strap

American Powder Horn, c. 1750-1800



- Engraved with both mythical and real animals

Powder Horn, c. 1750-1800



- Simple powder horn with hand carved spout and plug

English Priming Horn, c. 1750-1780



- Pistol plate engraved "N 17th LD Y"
- Belonged to the British 17th Light Dragoons
- Used for priming and loading a pistol

American Powder Horn, 1752



- Floral patterns, military fortification and a person are engraved
- Engraved -“OTHANIEL THOMOS HIS.HORN JAN.RY Ye 7 1752 DUKE”



American Powder Horn, 1756



- Professionally engraved
- Coat of arms in the center of the horn
- Screw plug stopper



American Powder Horn, c. 1760-1780



- Ornatly carved with a fort, a ship, cityscape, a hut under a tree, birds and a hanging shield with the initials "WF."

American Powder Horn, c. 1765-1790



- Geometric designs cut with a compass
- Popular in Native American horns

American Powder Horn, 1769



- Phrase "My Name is Powder"
- "POMP B & RKKKE His HORN AD 1769"



American Artillery Priming Powder Horn c. 1770-1810



- Brass Charger at end with decorative bands and spring lever

American Powder Horn, 1776



- Engraved- "John Harris, His
Horn, New York, The Jershis
1776"



American Powder Horn, 1777



- Engraved - "Jonak Gross
His Horn/Made at RIGH
March the 1 1777"



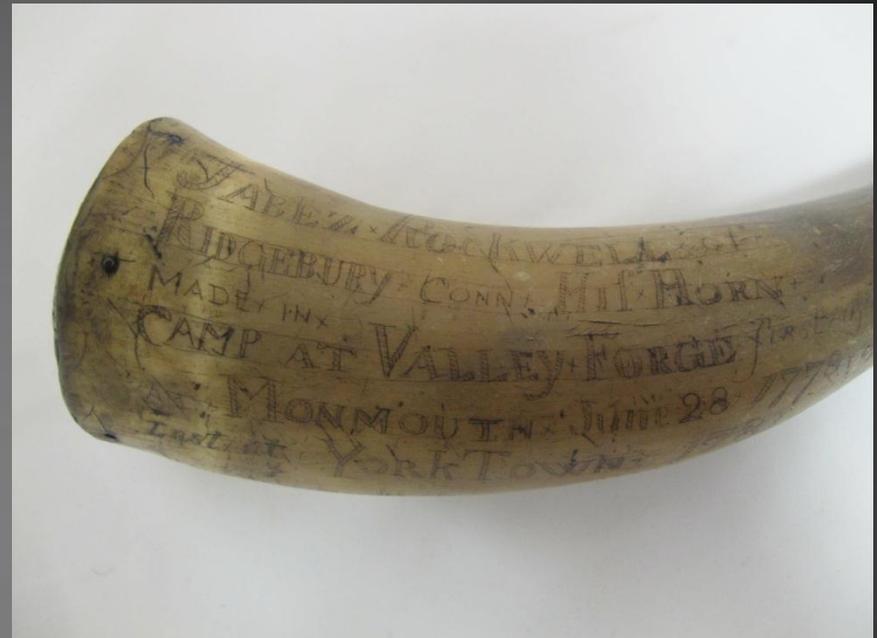
American Powder Horn, 1777



- "Jonathon Fosom/His Horn 1777
- Engraved with floral and geometric designs



American Powder Horn, 1778



- Jabez Rockwell's horn
- Engraved "Camp at Valley Forge, Monmouth June 28 1778, Last at Yorktown."

American Powder Horn, 1778



- "I AM A S UME, R BY MY TRE, I READE, ABEL PAGE HI HORN JAN YE 27, 1778"
- Small horn for a pistol or priming

American Powder Horn, 1779



- Engraved with military and animal figures
- "OC VS TINRASINE SC ECINNOVIEMEMARO 1779"



Powder Horn, c. 1779



- Flat horn with "1779" engraved
- Dogs head with collar carved into spout

American Powder Horn, c. 1780-1840



- Large Pennsylvania Horn
- Turned wood plug

American Powder Horn



- Simple powder horn
- Type of horn used by Riflemen

American Powder Horn



- Engraved with a barn,
sailing ship, and a
building facade



American Powder Horn



- Flattened style powder horn
common during the 18th Century

American Powder Horn



- Horn scraped thin to see powder level
- Screw on stopper

Powder Horn



- Ram horn
- Braided leather strap



Priming Horn



- Flattened priming horn
- Iron spring stopper

Powder Horn



- Pistol or priming horn
- Ornately carved with rings around entire horn



American Powder Horn



- Simplistic horn
- Raised carvings around the spout



American Tin and Wood Powder Holder



- Designed to be carried in a hunting bag
- Pine needle brush and priming wire attached

European Powder Flask



- Flat Ivory powder flask
- Decorated by elaborate floral design

Powder Horn

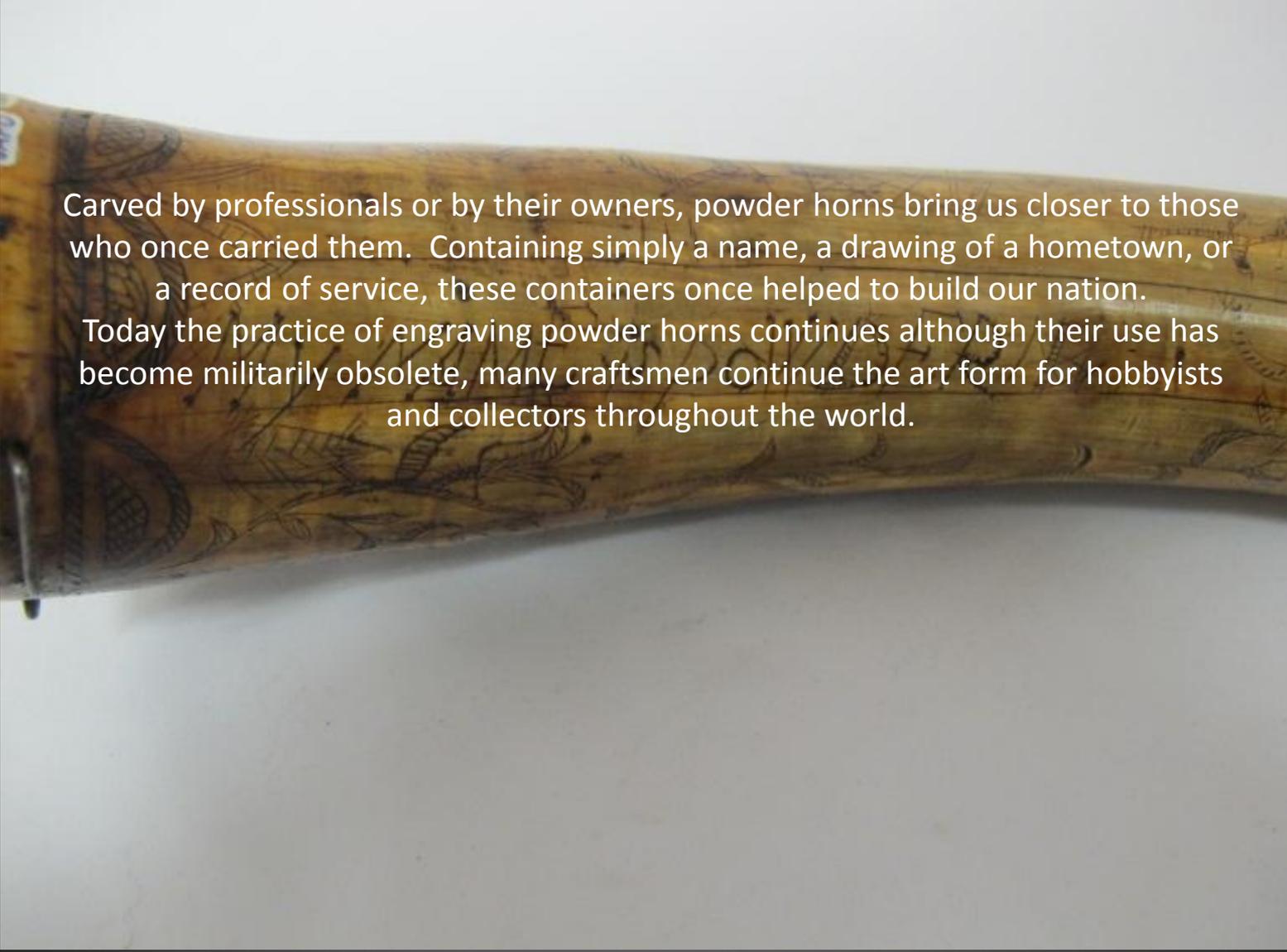


- Plugged with mother of pearl
- "N" cut into panel

Powder Horn



- Small simplistic style horn



Carved by professionals or by their owners, powder horns bring us closer to those who once carried them. Containing simply a name, a drawing of a hometown, or a record of service, these containers once helped to build our nation. Today the practice of engraving powder horns continues although their use has become militarily obsolete, many craftsmen continue the art form for hobbyists and collectors throughout the world.

For More Information

Contact:

The Museum Staff

Valley Forge National Historical Park

1400 North Outer Line Drive

King of Prussia, PA 19426

610-783-1034

or

<http://www.nps.gov/vafo/contacts.htm>

