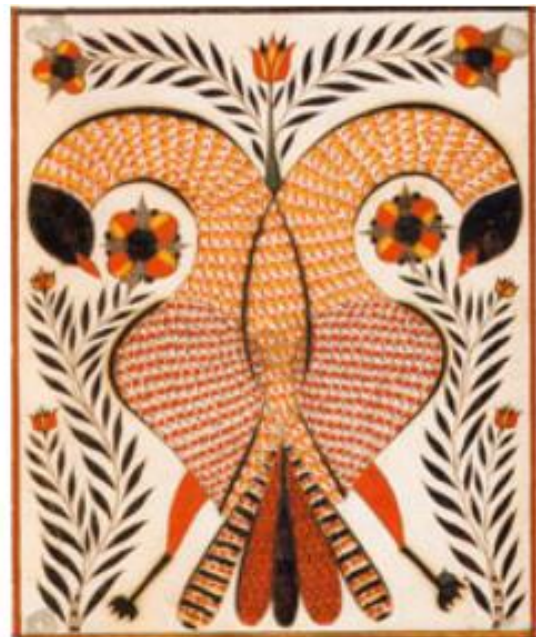


Fraktur as a folk art that describes life events such as births, deaths, baptisms and weddings. These certificates are similar to those first created in Switzerland by government officials in the 1600s. Similar designs became popular in America from mid-1700s to mid-1800s. Here, the artist was often the local school master or neighborhood scribe. As Swiss and German immigrants arrived in Ohio along with Pennsylvanians, the Fraktur art form grew in Ohio.

The images combine **calligraphic writing, colorful borders, and simple motifs or designs.**

Common motifs include **birds, flowers, hearts, and geometric shapes.**

<http://frakturweb.org/what-is-fraktur/fraktur-gallery/>



Typical images found on a Fraktur include **birds, hearts, borders, angels, people, heads, sheep, cows, flowers, patterns, and houses.**

Usual colors include **red, yellow, orange, green, brown, and black.**

Lettering is somewhat fancy with serifs or 'tails' added to the letter. Old English might be a good script to copy. Draw your letters and images in pencil lightly first on your page. Sometimes lettering must be adjusted to fit in the space properly so have an eraser nearby.

Once you are pleased with your Fraktur you can use ink, watercolor, acrylics, markers, colored pencils, or crayons to add color. Hang your masterpiece on the wall for all to enjoy your Fraktur certificate.





<http://museumcollection.winterthur.org/single-record.php?resultsperpage=60&vie>

<https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/6217>



Use the Directions below to draw your own Fraktur.

You will need:

- One or Two sheets of paper (One paper is used to sketch out your words and ideas)
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Art materials to add color markers, colored pencils, crayons, watercolor paint, acrylic paint.

MAKE A FRAKTUR

1. Choose the family information you will share on your Fraktur. This could be your birth information, a family wedding date, baptism date, or a family tree. Write it on a scratch paper so you can look at it when you are lettering the words on the certificate.

2. In the center of your good paper draw a shape that will frame your words. This shape is usually a heart, house, tree, rectangle or square. Draw this lightly with a pencil. If you'd rather, you can use the templates attached here.
3. Around the shape in the center draw some interesting motifs or designs that tell us more about the person(s) named within the shape. This could be a **dog, a cat, birds, hearts, angels, people, heads, sheep, cows, flowers, patterns, and houses.**
4. etc. This is up to you, the artist! Again, draw these lightly with a pencil so you are able to erase the drawings if you want to make a change.



5. Draw a pattern near the edge of the paper. It could be stripes, circles, straight lines, wiggly lines, more flowers, birds, etc. This is your choice!

6. With your neatest handwriting, letter the information of the person you are honoring including their name, date, place of birth, and anything else you would like to add.
7. Now it is time to go back over your pencil drawing with color. Typically Fraktur artists used **red, yellow, orange, green, brown, and black.**

Have fun! Share your creation on our **Delaware County Historical Society Summer Camp Facebook** page. Be sure to cross out or cover your name with a piece of paper first.

