



Wormy Chestnut

The wormy chestnut lumber came from an old Dairy Barn located in Tazewell Virginia. The owner H N Perry built the barn in 1920. Mr. Perry milked cows in this barn until 1979. The barn remained dormant until 1999.

A Gentleman by the name of Walter Asbury was talking to his neighbor (Mr. Perry) one day in early 1999, and inquired about the possibility of using a couple of old barn boards from the old dairy barn for a woodworking project. To Walters surprise Mr. Perry told him he could have the whole barn if he would remove every last piece of wood.

Walter was excited about the amount of wood that the old weathered barn would yield. He started taking down the old barn one piece at a time. Now Walter has a nice size country workshop with a shed attached. Board by board entered the shed and workshop started getting smaller. There was so much wood that he could not even begin to use all of this chestnut in his lifetime. Walter decided to sell some of his Chestnut gold mine. This is where I come into the picture. My oldest son spotted an ad for barn wood in the local classified. I happened to be visiting a week later so I thought I would pay Walter a visit have a look at the wood that is almost impossible to find any more.

Upon meeting a fellow woodworker who likes to talk about wood as much as I do, we took a journey through his house to see the many projects that he had already completed. There were chestnut corner cabinets, chestnut microwave table, chestnut kitchen cabinets, even chestnut paneling.

Finally we decided to take a look at the chestnut he had for sale. The barn boards ranged from 4 inches to 24 inches wide and 1 inch thick, and all flat and in excellent shape. We struck a deal and a portion of this chestnut is currently part of our inventory at The Ole General Store.

Bob Hughes

Ole General Store

Geneva Fl.