



# Best of Nature Rustic Mantels

A Division of Countree Living



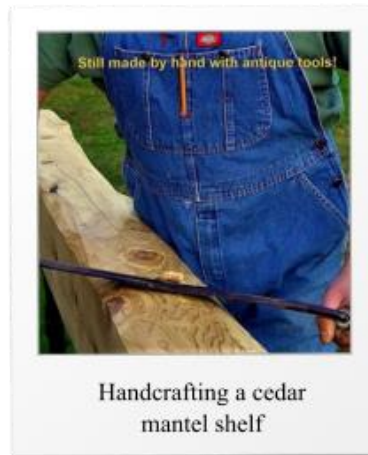
## Rustic Mantel Buyer's Guide

What really sets us apart? What makes our mantels better?

- Countree Living/Best of Nature Mantels has been crafting solid wood mantels for 35+ years! This gives every customer a lot of experience-Decades. Each mantel is meticulously crafted with experienced hands.

- The Best of Nature Log and Timber Mantels are all handcrafted, using the very same traditional hand held tools (now antiques!) used 150-200 year ago....various drawknives, many types of chisels, mallets etc.

Very few use these hand tools in their mantel crafting-as this is can be a demanding way to handcraft wood mantles-YET-you will SEE and FEEL the differences! Still hand made. These wood mantels truly are one of a kind.

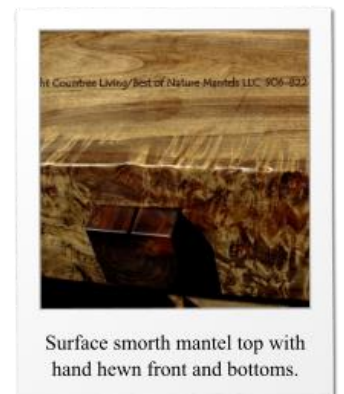


Handcrafting a cedar mantel shelf



Hand hewing a timber beam mantel the second time around.

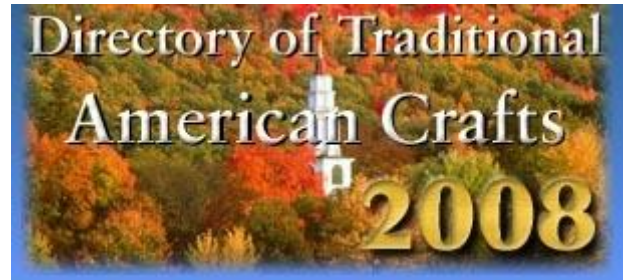
- The wood mantels we craft are A LOT different than others rustic mantels. Even though the mantels we create are rustic; we also take the time to carefully create user friendly surfaces. Surfaces that YOU CAN SEE AND FEEL, without getting slivers from rough sawn or hewn wood. We hand sand each side, sand all the surfaces. They are made to be elegantly rustic, YET- if one wants to touch and feel the surfaces, they can, and- they'll admire and enjoy thinking about what it took to make them the way we craft them.



Surface smooth mantel top with hand hewn front and bottoms.

- The mantels we handcraft and build are made in a way that makes it is easy for the installation. The back sides are made as smooth and as square as possible to the top mantel shelf. Unlike some companies--- which are left very rough, and thus-not square....and then, not easy for installing them.
  - The MANTLE TOPS - these are sawn and then sanded smooth to provide a VERY user friendly surface for using in any way. Being smooth versus rough, now you can place any items on the mantel top, and-they won't be tippy... And-for the ease of cleaning, this just leaves a much nicer surface to do that. Be very aware of all of these things when rustic mantle shopping! These small details all take time-but you will end up with one of the highest quality handcrafted mantels available in the industry.

- Our ONLY focus is on building rustic solid wood mantels. For decades, our reputation was built upon providing handcrafted products - of award winning quality. We are not distributors, sub-contractors, home builders, or the like. Our only products are rustic mantels, and we strive for 110% satisfaction, nothing less. YOU - work directly with the company and mantel designers/crafters one on one. **Many customers truly enjoy this personal attention!**



Our products have been featured in:

- Log Home Living
  - Country's Best Log Homes
  - Log Home Design Ideas
  - Early American Life
  - and various other publications
  - In 2008, Early American Life magazine awarded Countree Living/Best of Nature as "One of America's Best in traditional handcrafting of rustic furnishings".
- **Moisture contents:** We only utilize wood that has been stable and cured for long periods. In cases like the Timberwood mantels - these are mostly reclaimed from buildings built back in the 1850-1900's era. Log mantels we produce, have been dried down to arrive at an acclimated moisture content.
  - We have staff that has over 30+ years experience in the log and timber home industry, the rustic furniture business, and-decades building rustic fireplace mantels--so this knowledge is utilized every single day!

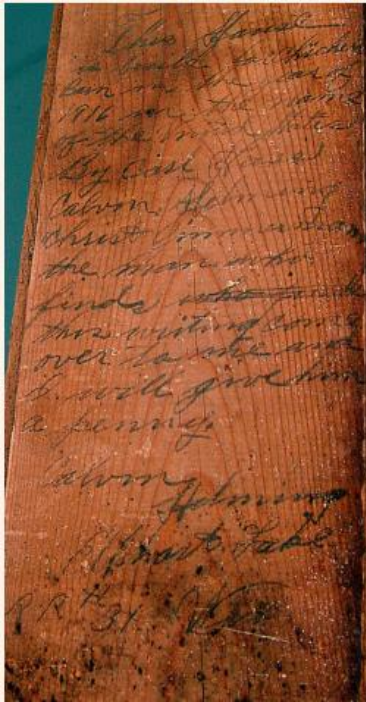
Photos from our archives and the past:

And there are times we find *artifacts* from the past. Sometimes-initials. Other times-certain markings, carvings. Some interesting examples:

A board was found a barn disassembly in 2013.

It was written on this board "This home is built for a chicken barn in the year 1916 in the name of the United States by Carl Hass, Calvin Helming and Christ Zimmerman. The man who finds this writing come over to me and I will give him a penny" Calvin Helming RR#3 Elkhart Lake

Just think - a penny... back then... a 100 years back from today....



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Hand Hewn Beam Painted Kalk in Red Barn Paint

There was another group of farm buildings built in the 1810-1830's by the Schwinn family outside the Howards Grove Wisconsin area. A large assortment of structures-and there we found a timber initialed by-probably Anna Mary Schwinn. Here is a photo of the family found in a book published on the family history from 1808-2008, and buildings behind- that were disassembled some years back....

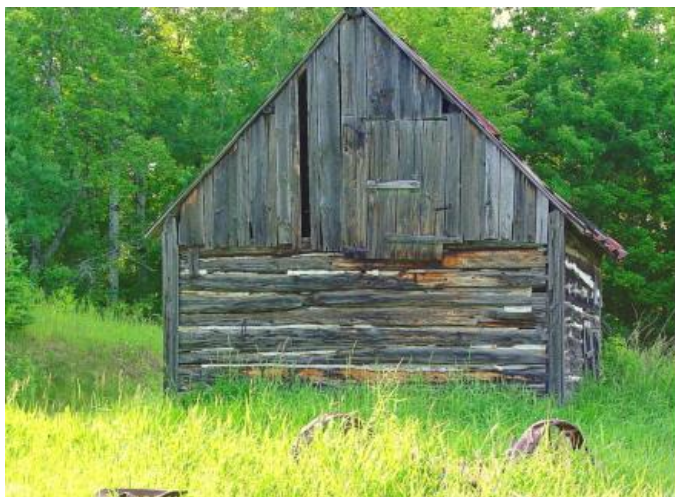


The Peter Schwinn Homestead Farm across the road from the house at Edwards, in Manitowoc County, with Peter, Paul, Edward, Anna Mary (Wolf) Schwinn holding Catherine (Schwinn) Schmidt, Theckla (Schwinn) Wagner, & Margaret (Schwinn) Shalloe

Photo from Schwinn Family 1808-2008, History Book



A Hewn Timber Initialed by Anna Mary



A Lot of Old Stories Come From These Settings



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All Hand Labor & Teamwork; Now Ready for a Second Life

## Testimonials

“Mantel arrived. Believe me-I tried to get into the package to open it but could not even break through. If whoever packed that had built the Titanic we would never have heard of that ship. Thanks” - **C.B. - CA**

“Got the first one Beautiful that's all I can say BEAUTIFUL!!!! LOVE IT GREAT CRAFTSMANS SHIP!” - **T.M. - CA**

“The photos on your site do not represent how nice the logs actually are. The compliments we receive on the mantel are endless. I tell each and every person where we purchased it and that you made the experience more pleasant than I could have imagined. I wanted to thank you again for all the help that you have given me” - **John - NY**

“The mantle is absolutely gorgeous. Definitely the center of attention. Exactly what we were going for. We feel that this is certainly worth every minute and penny. Truly one of a kind. Thanks again for helping us achieve a dream.” - **P.M. - MI**

“I'm someone who prefers to physically touch and see something in person before I would make a purchase. Even then, I typically will think about it a few days before I actually buy something. After shopping around for mantels and no luck of finding anything we liked, I decided to try the you. A purchase like this via the Internet and us loving it 100% didn't seem like the best solution. I mean a custom built mantel relying purely on emails and short phone conversations, not possible?.....I am very excited to say, we love our mantel more than we thought possible.

You did an incredible job! Our mantel is exactly what we had pictured and couldn't find anywhere. I am very glad I found your company and will recommend you to everyone I come across in need of a mantel!

Thank you very much!” - **L.M. - PA**

“Wow, it's beautiful what more can I say!!!! Packaging was great, everything in tip top condition! What a great company to deal with.

Love, love love it, Thanks again. We took a chance ordering from the states as we hadn't heard of your company and have never purchased anything like this sight unseen, but it's been a great experience.” - **S.P. - NJ**

“Hi - This mantel is beautiful and we absolutely love it! You do amazing work. Thanks for packaging it so well, too. We have ordered quite a few things online for our recent home renovation and we know some companies who could take a packing lesson from you! Thanks so much!” - **Donna - MO**

“Yes - It has turned out better than I could have wished for. Thank you for all the help and outstanding service.” - **J.L. - OH**

“Juli and I LOVED working with you and appreciate your flexibility, willingness to meet the “darn” customer demands and always striving for great customer service through communication.

Our builder was there when we opened the mantle, and has never seen such beautiful work. It has been so enjoyable working with you.

I wish you were AT&T, American Airlines, Delta Airlines, State Farm, DISH, etc.,.... They could learn a lot from you, but simple, basic customer service is what keeps customers happy!” - **C.P. - MI**

“The mantle did arrive safely and it looks amazing! My says it is absolutely perfect and more beautiful than she could imagine. I owe you a lot of thanks for helping me so much and being so patient. My mantle is going to be the “showpiece”.

I think the wall would separate from the house before the mantle comes off the wall. You guys do a great job there, which is proven every time someone sees my mantle and lets out a breathless “wow”! Thanks again for all your hard work!” - **D.D. - TX**



For further information and assistance, contact us by phone at (715) 588-1241 or by email at [info@countreeliving.com](mailto:info@countreeliving.com).