
RADNORSHIRE BORDER CHESTS

To date, no volunteers from the Welsh Borders have come forward to research these chests, so I propose to write to local newspapers in the area myself, hoping to track down some more pieces with a known history of use and ownership.

However, a member has sent in details of two more of these pieces, bringing the number to date up to six, and some interesting similarities are emerging. They are all remarkably alike, all made from single wide boards with a thick (about 2¹/₂") bottom to which the sides are nailed.

Recently I restored a dresser from Caersws, of North Wales type in appearance, but in terms of construction unlike any other dresser I have seen. It was built up from a 3" oak plank which formed the bottom, and to which the framed front, ends and back were nailed.

This dresser is from the North West of the Mid Wales/Borders area, while the chests found so far are from the Eastern part of it. The use of such wide and (for the bottoms) thick boards shows that oak of large size was available to furniture makers. If more pieces showing this "bottom-based" construction can be attributed to this area, another regional structural feature will have emerged.

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