

The York Woodworkers Association
Newsletter for September 9, 2019
From A Picture to Furniture Demonstration

Greetings all and welcome to the September 2019 club newsletter. If you have suggestions for improvements, please email me at martinsolutionsrh@att.net
Or ron.martin52611@att.net



Message from the President: If you missed Richard's presentation you missed a good one. Richard has been one of our York Woodworkers for a long time, in fact, he is one of the founding members.

His presentation included both his research and a working drawing (somewhat), Richard had to do a lot of figuring and calculating to determine the size of the chest as well as the size of the stand as the drawing just gave a height and width measurement. And looking at his completed rendition of the sugar chest, I think he did a superb job. Thank you, Richard, for a fine presentation.

It has been another hot and dry summer, but I hope you all have been able to find some time to spend in the shop. My air stream renovation project has turned into just that, a project. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, I think, and I am ready for some shop time too.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our annual Christmas dinner, it will be on November 22nd at the York Fire Department. We will plan to eat at 6PM. Cost is \$13.00/single or \$26.00/couple. If you have decided to attend, you have a few more weeks to do so. Also don't forget about your 2020 dues, still a bargain at \$35.00/year.

Any shop time is good time.

Don Lee

The October 2019 Meeting: Monday, October 7, 2019

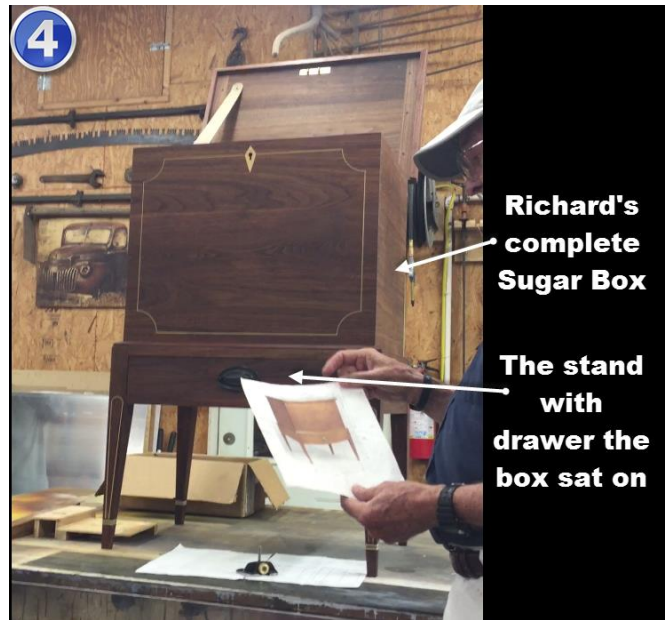
We'll be at John Leake's Antique & Cabinet Shop – 1746 Highway 321 N (Filbert Highway), York, SC 29745.
Phone: 803.684.5651. Subject Matter: Building Cove Molding.



For our September 9, 2019 meeting, Richard Summers presented a very informative "From A Picture to Furniture Demonstration. As always, his presentation was well organized, filled with valuable information and contained a pre-constructed example of a 18th Century Sugar Chest on a Stand he had created. The pictures below show the one of the old sugar chests with basic dimensions. [\(Pictures 1-2\)](#)



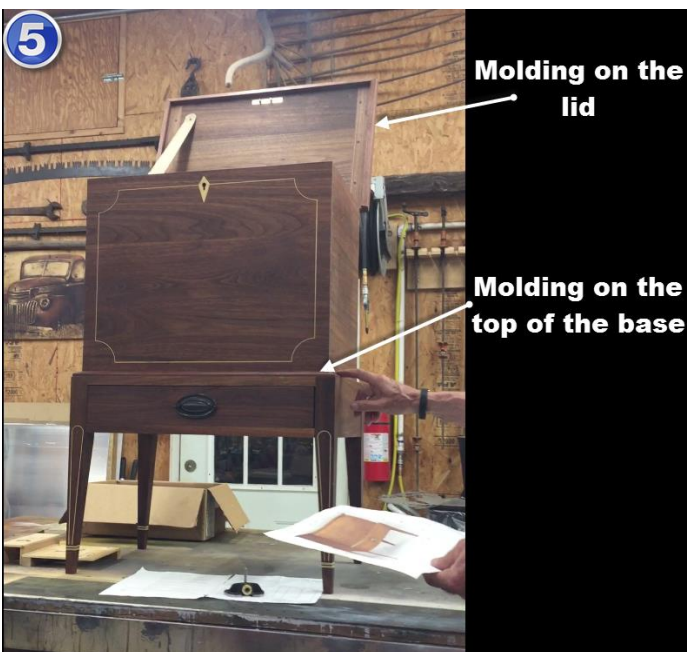
Richard's Sugar Box on a Stand



Richard's complete Sugar Box

The stand with drawer the box sat on

They think the pictures of the sugar box Richard worked from were made in Mercer County, Kentucky between 1810 and 1820. He found this piece in Speed Museum in Louisville, Kentucky and he ask them to send him a picture of it. They sent him two piece of paper (show above) and the only dimensions it had on it were the height, width and depth. This was not a lot to work with but was a start. Knowing what the height was he had to determine what part of that was the height of the box and what was the height of the stand. Then he looked at the molding on the top of the stand, which was not your typical mold. He noticed this matched the molding around the lid. (Picture 5). He made the chest first and it has a partition on the inside which separated the sugars from the teas. He routed out for the partition on the sides and the bottom, so it is floating. He put floating pins to hold the side along with glue up in a couple of spots. This was done in order to keep the top from bowing. The inlay on the front of the box was made to coincide with the keyhole slot and inlay. He used a dowel rod to center the slot for the key and then coOrdinated the keyhole inlay to center on that cutting out and centering the inlay with the dowel rod. Once done, this determined the location for the string inlay which is keyed off the lock and keyhole inlay location. He then made a jig to make the pattern for the four curves in the string inlay which he did with a router. (Pictures 6 & 7).



Molding on the lid

Molding on the top of the base



Jig for the curves in the string inlay



Once he had the corners cut, he came back with an edge router and connected the four corners. String inlay on the legs was the real challenge. Coming up with the tight curve at the top created a lot of frustration. So, Richard when on the web site where he purchased the string inlay in Monroe, NC. The guy there suggested using heat to make the curve. The diameter of the curve was one inch which is the size of most pipe clamps so Richard put a pipe in a vise and heated it with a propane torch and then slid the inlay across the heated pipe until he could cross the end pieces underneath. Once done the inlay fit right in the curve. (Picture 8). He was able to do the entire string without doing any splicing, running it all the way down to the banding at the bottom of the leg. Richard built a test leg where he could test everything before taking it to the piece. He also built a jig to create the curve on the leg so all the inlays on the legs were the same. (Pictures 9, 10 and 11). This served as a test piece so everything he did to it could be duplicated on the sugar chest base.





The banding at the bottom of the leg was a mixture of holly and ebony. Ebony is a lot like glass and shatters very easily. He didn't do a butt edge but rather cut the banding at a 45 to obtain a miter joint. One problem he ran into is the lock latch is inlaid into the top and because of shrinkage in the top the lock would not always latch. He asked John Leake how he dealt with this. John response was, "It's like a broke clock. It will be correct twice a day!" 😊 Richard joked and said the lock on the chest would work good twice a year! The back of the top does not move as much as the front because it is hinged, however the front of the top moves quite a bit between summer and winter because it is free floating, and the lock is embedded into that part of the lid.

For a finish he used Watco Tung Oil which he said is his favorite finish. Keep in mind that Tung Oil is not waterproof or alcohol proof when choosing this finish make sure it isn't going to be exposed to these conditions. If it was a piece where people would be putting cold drinks on it, he would use a polyurethane on the top of the lid. You totally flood the surface with Tung Oil and keep soaking it until it will not absorb any more. Then wipe it off, let it dry and the next day come back and flood it again. Then he comes back and uses 600 grit wet or dry sandpaper and rub it so hard you slur it. This and this serves to fill the grain. You can do this as many times as you want. When you are finish make sure you come back and knock off any dust that's remaining. One excellent benefit to this finish is should you ever knick, ding or scratch the finish, you can come back, sand it up and apply some more Tung oil and you will never be able to see it. This is unlike putting a hard finish like lacquer or polyurethane and do that, you are going to have to take all the finish off and start over again. Tung oil is a very forgiving finish. Plus, Richard likes it because it truly looks like real wood. Again, if the piece will be sitting where somewhere someone might put a drink on it, he would come back and put two or three coats of polyurethane on it. **VERY IMPORTANT:** If you decide to put the polyurethane one top of the Tung oil, you need to wait a minimum of three days before doing so.

From A Picture to Furniture Demonstration

FROM THE EDITOR: This concludes the September 9, 2019 newsletter on "From A Picture to Furniture Demonstration." I hope I have done you all and Richard justice. Thanks, Richard for a very educational, informative and exceptional meeting. I would also like to extend my apologies for taking so long to get this newsletter out to you. I try to make this as good a newsletter as possible however it does take tremendous amounts of time to create, document and supply this much detail. It is my honor to be able provide this service to such a wonderful and skilled bunch of folks. Now I will get started on the October 7th Newsletter and will get out as soon as possible. I will then try to finish the back issues and get them out to everyone as well. Thanks for your understanding.

Happy Woodworking,

Ron Martin

Newsletter Editor

Greatness is not standing above our fellows and ordering them around - it is standing with them and helping them be all they can be!

