



RUTH AND NAOMI

Cherry

Ruth 1:16

*But Ruth said,
"Entreat me not to leave you
or to return from following you"...*

This block of cherry wood has a unique history of its own. One evening I was talking with a friend who knew of an old church that was being torn down. Since the church was about 150 miles away, we decided to make some calls to see that it had not already been demolished. We were told that it was still mostly intact.

It was the First Presbyterian Church, in Little Falls, NY. According to some information I was able to obtain, the church was dedicated in 1891 and it was being razed because the upkeep was too expensive and they planned to build a smaller, more modern church on that same property.

I had visions of a little wooden country church but, to my surprise, it was a large graystone building dating back about 85 years. The demolition was a shame, because beautiful stained glass windows were smashed; roof beams were dropped on top of the old pews below; the wooden organ pipes were cut down by a chain saw, as were two 6" cherry posts that supported the choir loft.

It is a section of one of these cherry posts that I used for this sculpture of Ruth and Naomi. The wood had no cracks and was as good as it had been 85 years ago. The roundness of the base of this sculpture is the actual size of the diameter of the post. Another one of my sculptures, Pilate's Trial of Jesus, was also made from a section of this same post.

I would just like to mention that, often, I add a detail or change something not originally considered in my plan. In this carving I added the vines climbing up the stones of the old well.