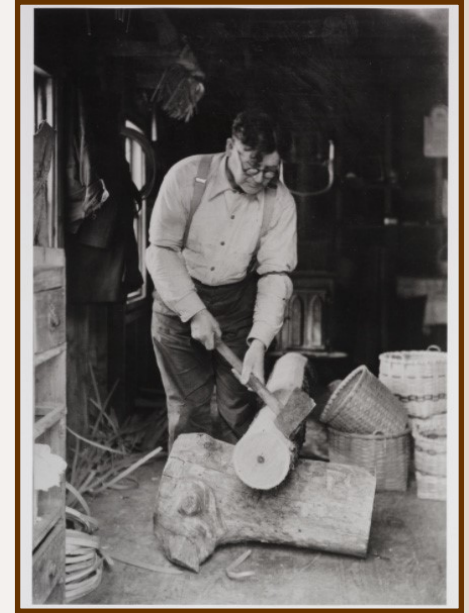


ASH SPLINT BASKETS

Basket-making is an important aspect of Abenaki life and culture. The Abenaki have used baskets for thousands of years to carry and store items. Baskets were also important decorative objects, as the Abenaki created designs on their baskets by using natural resources like porcupine quills, shells, and grasses.

One method of creating baskets involves making splints from trees. Splints are thin pieces of bark that are woven or braided together, like those pictured below.

Although the Abenaki made splints from many different types of trees throughout their history, ash splint baskets became particularly popular among people visiting New Hampshire for vacation in the 19th century. Tourists would purchase ash splint baskets and then take them back to their homes throughout the eastern United States. In this way, Abenaki culture spread far beyond the borders of New England.



Although this man is not Abenaki, he is splitting wood into thin strips to make an ash splint basket.



Alice Ogden loosens a thin piece of wood to create a splint, which could be used to make a basket.