

# **BASKET, MOHAWK – “Pack Basket,” “Corn Washing Basket,” “Wedding Basket”**

## **OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS**

<b>Repository:</b>	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
<b>Creator:</b>	Henry Arquette (Atsienhanonne, “fire keeper”), 1931 - 2015
<b>Title:</b>	Basket – Mohawk – “Pack Basket,” “Corn Washing Basket,” “Wedding Basket”
<b>Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Abstract:</b>	Three utilitarian baskets made by Mohawk basketmaker Henry Jake Arquette.
<b>Quantity:</b>	3 baskets
<b>Identification:</b>	Folk Art & Artists

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Henry Jake Arquette is a master basketmaker who specializes in the utility baskets traditionally made by the Haudenosaunee Mohawks. Arquette was born in 1931 and grew on the Akwasasne Reservation, located along the St. Lawrence River in the far north of New York State, bordering Canada. He learned to make baskets from his father and grandfather, and uses the hand tools that were passed down to him to make his utility baskets out of black ash splints with sturdy handles made of white ash. In 1993, Arquette retired from ironworking on bridges and skyscrapers and began making baskets full time. He is a revered community elder who has mentored others in the art form and taught at the Akwesasne Cultural Center in Hogansburg, New York, for over 25 years. His baskets are in collections around the world, and in 2014 Henry Arquette received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## **INDEX TERMS**

**Places:** Hogansburg – Franklin County – New York  
Akwasasne Reservation

**Subjects:** Baskets  
Basketmaking  
Folk Art  
Folk Artists  
Mohawk Artists  
National Heritage Fellowships

**Important People:** Henry Jake Arquette 1931 - 2015

**Form/Genre:** Black ash baskets

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Preferred Citation:** Basket – Mohawk – “Pack Basket,” “Corn Washing Basket,”  
“Wedding Basket”  
The Folklife Center at  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** Purchased from the artist, 2013.

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, March 2019.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS**

1. Pack basket; 22 inches tall x 16 inches across rim.
2. Corn washing basket; 10 ½ inches tall x 12 ¾ inches across rim, made with a twill weave to allow for water to escape and corn to remain.
3. Wedding basket; 6 ½ inches tall x 14 inches across rim; traditional, used for weddings in the Longhouse, with the man bringing his basket filled with food, and the woman brings her basket filled with cloth. They exchange baskets as part of the ceremony, indicating that the man will provide for the family and the woman will make a home.