

Literature Relevant to the Art and Historical Period

Solitary Craftsman

He sits before the fireplace
In the Rosy smoky light
And he makes a split oak basket
In the quiet of the night.

He's a solitary craftsman
Makin' baskets for a livin'
And for special friends he always has
A fine one just fer givin'.

He's a good man I've been told
A man who's right for carin'
He's a gentle man I'm told
One who shows his care by sharin'.

He's never offered me his snap
We've never walked the dell
But sometimes when we've finally met
We'll sit and chat a spell.

Then he'll tell me 'bout his weavin'
And the way he keeps it tight
And he'll tell me about his livin'
And the way he keeps it right.

— *Jim Bennett*



Large Oak Splint Egg Basket, Pricketts Fort collection

The Basketman

The sky is dark and rain is
gently falling on the road
and yet the basketman continues
at his work.

He doesn't need the sun to
help him twine and plait
and split.

He plies his craft and
makes his own sunshine.

Plain country baskets, strong
and filled with love. . .

I think I'd like to be
a basketman!

— *Jim Bennett*