

Washington's Teapot



Few figures in American history have inspired as much reverence as George Washington. So deep was the admiration for the nation's first president that even everyday household items linked to him were cherished as family treasures.

One such object is a well-worn teapot that belonged to Washington's sister, Betty Washington Lewis. Over time, this humble piece of pottery made an unexpected journey—eventually surfacing at an auction in Crete, Nebraska.

A letter accompanying the teapot in 1938, written by a descendant of the Lewis family, shared its remarkable backstory. According to the account, Washington's grandmother brought the teapot from England. During the turmoil of the Revolutionary War, it was lost for a period before being rediscovered "in an old slaves hut." The letter also reflected on the sacrifices of Betty's husband, Fielding Lewis, who devoted much of his personal fortune to supporting the Patriot cause—expenses for which he was never repaid.

The teapot was later donated to the Nebraska State Historical Society. Though it has no direct connection to Nebraska beyond its appearance at auction in Crete, donors and curators believed it was important for Nebraskans to have tangible links to the American Revolution. Objects like this teapot serve as powerful reminders that the legacy of the Revolution extends far beyond the original thirteen colonies.