

# 18th Century Material Culture: Canteens



# “Cheesebox” Style Canteens

(Note: the term “Cheesebox” is NOT a period term)

This style of Canteen was used by American troops from the 2nd half of the 18th Century to the first half of the 19th Century. Although extant canteens with a given provenance suggest that this style of Canteen was used primarily by troops from the Northern Colonies, particularly New England, their use by other troops cannot be definitively ruled out.



Copyright Fort Ticonderoga Museum

Wood Canteen with Leather Keepers and Cord  
Carried by Noah Allen of the 1st Massachusetts Regiment 1780  
(Fort Ticonderoga Museum)



Wood Canteen with Leather Keepers

c. 1775



Wood Canteen with Leather Keepers

c. 1775



Militia Canteen in Red Paint  
Late 18th - Early 19th Century  
(Skinner)



Wood Canteen Marked "4TH C - 3R - 1B"  
Possible 4TH Connecticut Regiment but probably Post - Revolution



Wood Canteen with Small Iron Keepers  
Carried by Joseph Ames of the 2nd Continental Artillery during the Revolution  
(Don Troiani)



Wood Canteen of Tobias Oakman 1777 - 1778  
(Private Collection)



Wood Canteen of Tobias Oakman 1777 - 1778  
(Private Collection)



Wood Canteens  
Left Marked "NH 1771"  
(Estate of Tom Wnuck)



Wood Canteen with Leather Straps & Small Iron Keepers  
Late 18th - Early 19th Century



Wood Canteen  
18th - Early 19th Century



Wood Canteen found in North Carolina  
c. 1750 - 1820  
(North Carolina Museum of History)



Wood Canteen with Leather Keepers in Blue Paint & Pewter Spout  
(Estate of Tom Wnuck)



Wood Canteen with Leather Keepers  
c. 1770 - 1800  
(Colonial Williamsburg, Gift of William H. Guthman)



Wood Canteen in Green Paint  
Late 18th - Early 19th Century  
(Green Valley Auctions)



Wood Canteen in Green Paint  
Late 18th - Early 19th Century  
(Cowan Auction House)



Wood Canteen in Green Paint  
Late 18th - Early 19th Century  
(Cowan Auction House)



Wood Canteen in Green Paint  
Late 18th - Early 19th Century  
(Cowan Auction House)

# Stayed Canteens



This Canteen was carried  
in the Revolutionary war  
by William Joyner, of Nash  
County, N.C. Presented to  
the State Museum by his  
grandson, W. T. Griffin,  
of Nashville, N.C.  
14461

Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
Carried by William Joyner of North Carolina  
During the Revolution



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops in Red Paint with "J.W.W." Initials  
"Canteen from King George Barracks signed R.D. Coggeshall"



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops Initialed "I P"  
Bearing the Mark of the "U. States"  
As Directed by the Continental Congress in February, 1777  
(American Revolution Center)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
Bearing a "U. STATES" Stamp  
(Don Troiani)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
Marked "H G (?) 1776"  
(Don Troiani)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
Reported to have a New England Provenance



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
Carried by James Adams of Putnam's 3rd Connecticut Regiment at Cambridge in 1775  
(Don Troiani)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
(Private Collection)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
Carved Initials  
(Don Troiani)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops Marked "IW"  
Carried by Isaac Whitehead During the Revolution  
(Morristown National Historic Park)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
(Estate of Tom Wnuck)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops and Pewter Spout  
(Estate of Tom Wnuck)



Diminutive Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
(Estate of Tom Wnuck)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops in Blue Paint  
"Carried by William A. (Haw)kins d[ur]ing the Battle of (Bun)ker Hill in 1775"  
(Northeast Auction House, Portsmouth NH)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops in Blue Paint  
"Carried by William A. (Haw)kins d[ur]ing the Battle of (Bun)ker Hill in 1775"  
(Northeast Auction House, Portsmouth NH)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
(Early American Auctioneers)



Horn and Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops Carried by Ithamar Remington  
(Cowan Auction House)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops in Red Paint  
(Private Collection)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops in Red Paint  
(Private Collection)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
(Cowans Auction House)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
(Cowans Auction House)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops in Red Paint  
(Private Collection)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops in Red Paint  
(Private Collection)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
Carried by Asahl Parmele from Connecticut during the Revolution  
(Don Troiani)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
18th Century with 19th Century Paint  
(Private Collection)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
(Cowan Auction House)



Staved Canteen with Interlocking Wood Hoops  
(Cowan Auction House)



Staved Canteen with Iron Hoops  
Carried by a Soldier from New Jersey Continental Line during the Revolution  
(Don Troiani)



Staved Canteen with Iron Hoops & "JF" Initials  
(Private Collection)



Staved Canteen with Iron Hoops  
Carried by Ammi Ruhamah Bradbury during the Revolution  
(Don Troiani)



Staved Canteen with Iron Hoops  
18th - Early 19th Century  
(Private Collection)



Staved Canteen with Iron Hoops  
Carried by a Soldier at the Battle of Saratoga, 1777  
(Don Troiani)



Staved Canteen with Iron Hoops  
(George C. Neumann Collection, Valley Forge National Historic Park)



Staved Canteen with Iron Hoops found on a Farm in the Northern Neck of Virginia  
c. 1750 - 1830  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



Iron Rimmed Wood Canteen in Red Paint  
(Estate of Tom Wnuck)



Staved Canteen with Iron Hoops of Peleg Wadsworth  
c. 1770  
(Maine Historical Society)



Staved Canteen with Iron Hoops



Staved Canteen with Iron Hoops



Staved Canteens with Iron Hoops  
(Estate of Tom Wnuck)

# Lathe Turned Canteens



Lathe Turned Wood Canteen  
Engraved With Heart and "SR" Initials  
(Guilford Courthouse National Military Park)



Lathe Turned Cherry Wood Canteen  
(Cowan Auction House)

# Rundlets



Rundlet in Black Paint  
(National Museum of American History - The Smithsonian Institution)



Turned Rundlet in Red Paint  
Marked "B.D." or "B.B."  
(Private Collection)



Turned Rundlet in Green Paint

Stamped on one end with "Elt. York". New Hampshire records suggest the owner was Eliphalet York. York served from early December of 1776 through March of 1777 with Captain Samuel Wallingford's Company, Colonel Gimán's Regiment of Militia.



Rundlet

Owned by Major David Dickinson of Deerfield, Massachusetts  
5th Massachusetts Regiment  
(Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association of Deerfield, Massachusetts)



Rundlet  
18th Century



Rundlet  
18th Century



Rundlets and a Barrel Canteen  
18th Century - Early 19th Century  
(Cowan Auction House)

# Barrel Canteens



Lt. Gabriel Bay Illustration  
1774  
(National Maritime Museum)



Iron Band Barrel Canteen with Handle  
(Private Collection)



Barrel Canteen with Wood Hoops  
(Private Collection)



A Revolutionary  
War Barrel Canteen  
which originally  
was painted green  
as all the Revolutionary  
wooden canteens were  
Picked up in New  
Hampshire, in the  
Green Mountains.  
Hence might have  
been used by the  
famous Green Mt.  
Boys, under General  
Stark.  
Purchased it  
Dec 6-1937, from  
Walter C. White Jr  
Asburnham  
Mass  
A.H.H.

Iron Band Canteen  
(Private Collection)



Iron Band Canteen  
(Private Collection)

# Organic Canteens



Gourd and Coconut Canteens  
(Estate of Tom Wnuck)

# Tin Canteens



American Tin Canteen with a Flared Base  
18th Century  
(Don Troiani Collection)



British "Tin Water Bottle"  
(Don Troiani Collection)



British "Tin Water Bottle"  
(Don Troiani Collection)



British "Tin Water Bottle"  
(Don Troiani Collection)



British "Tin Water Bottle"  
(Don Troiani Collection)

Image Removed  
Awaiting Approval

British "Tin Water Bottle"  
(Private Collection)

Image Removed  
Awaiting Approval

British "Tin Water Bottle"  
(Private Collection)

Image Removed  
Awaiting Approval

British "Tin Water Bottle"  
(Private Collection)



British or Hessian Tin Canteen c.1760 - 1783  
Found in the British & Hessian hut encampment built on the Dyckman Farm around Fort Washington in  
New York City.  
(New York Historical Society)



Edward Penny, R.A. "An Officer Giving Alms to a Sick Soldier"

While this painting pre-dates the American War for Independence, The Tin Canteen Shown Varies Little From those that were used from 1770 - 1783. Note the Tin Cap and Thin Linen Cord.

Also Note the Large Linen Haversack Worn on the Soldier in the Background (Southeby's Auction House)



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Grenadiers, 46th, 47th, and 48th Regiments of Foot  
by David Morier 1751  
(The Royal Collection)



Grenadiers, 46th, 47th, and 48th Regiments of Foot  
by David Morier 1751  
(The Royal Collection)



Myself on Piquet in a Tempest  
Binding a Cloak

*[Signature]*

“Myself on Piquet in a Tempest --- a Cloak 1777”  
Possible Provenance - Richard St. George Mansergh During the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777  
Detail Reveals the Presence of a Tin Canteen with Rope Sling



Possible Provenance - Richard St. George Mansergh During the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777  
Detail Reveals the Presence of a Tin Canteen with Rope Sling



A VIEW IN AMERICA IN 1778

Printed by B. Darly, Aug. 1. 1778

BM 5482

“A VIEW IN AMERICA IN 1778” by Mathew or Mary Darly  
Note the Presence of a Dome Top Tin Canteen with Cap on the Pointing British Light Infantry Soldier  
(American Antiquarian Society)

# Costrels



Leather Costrel Dated 1730  
Punch Decorated "WM" and "WC"  
(Christie's Auction House)



Leather Costrel  
c. 1725  
(Keith Hockin Antiques)



Leather Costrel  
First Half 18th Century  
(Keith Hockin Antiques)



Leather Costrel  
c. 1720



Leather Costrel  
c. 1725  
(Keith Hockin Antiques)



Glass & Leather Costrel

# Acknowledgements

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