

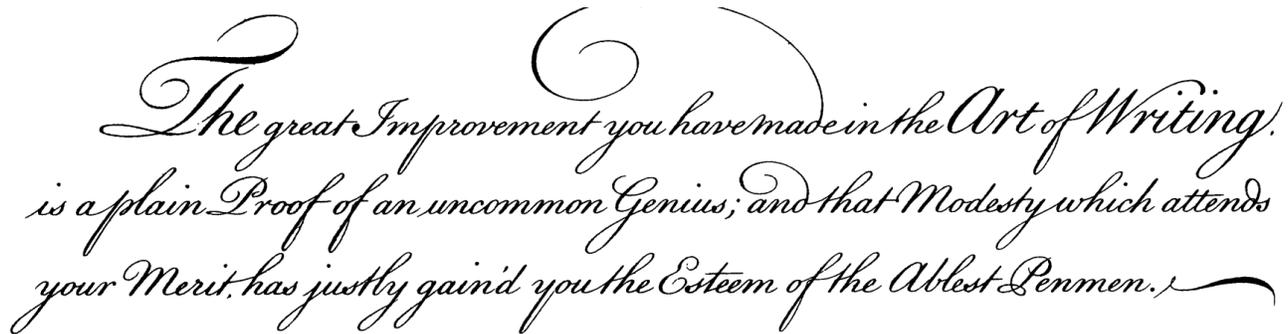
## Sources for Colonial & British Writing, up to about 1820:

### Pens, Ink, and Penmanship

*Round Hand* was the dominant writing style among English writers in the 1700s and into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Written with a quill pen, the alphabet was based on the round letter *o*, letters sloped 35 or 40 degrees to the right, and thick lines were produced on the downstrokes through slight pressure applied to the flexible pen point. See page 4 below for an excellent example of the round hand alphabet. (*Copperplate* is a later derivative of round hand, not round hand.) To learn more about writing in round hand, see:

*The Art of Penmanship*; E. Huntington, 1821 ( [http://www.iampeth.com/ADOBE\\_PDFs/Huntington%20-%20Art%20of%20Penmanship.pdf](http://www.iampeth.com/ADOBE_PDFs/Huntington%20-%20Art%20of%20Penmanship.pdf) )

*The Universal Penman*. George Bickham. 1741.



Round hand sample by George Bickham.

*Penmanship Made Easy or the Young Clerk's Assistant*. George Bickham, 1741; (reprint Dover 1997).

*The Instructor, or American Young Man's Best Companion Containing Spelling, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetick* Fisher, George. 1786. sample pages online at <http://dohistory.org/archive/doc039/thumbindex.html>.

"There are a number of old penmanship books digitized in the Rare Books section of the website of the International Association of Master Penmen, Engrossers and Teachers of Handwriting, a resource full of penmanship history and well worth the look." (<http://www.iampeth.com/books.php>) - R. Huford. For example:

*The Art of Writing*, John Jenkins, 1813 [Massachusetts].

"The Secrets of Writing with Quills" ( <http://www.sullivanpress.com/quills.htm> )

"How to Read 18<sup>th</sup> Century British-American Writing" ([http://dohistory.org/on\\_your\\_own/toolkit/writing.html](http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/writing.html)).

#### Quill Pens

Almost all writing up to 1830 or so was done with quill pens. About how to make a quill pen, see:

[http://www.6nc.org/about6nc/quill\\_pens.html](http://www.6nc.org/about6nc/quill_pens.html) Good how-to details, but no pictures

<http://www.janeausten.co.uk/cutting-a-quill-pen/> pictures, but does not mention hardening

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Making-a-quill-pen/> pictures, but does not mention hardening

"Preparation of Quills and Reeds," Jackson, Donald, in *The Calligrapher's Handbook*. pages 15-38. ed. Heather Child. 2nd ed. New York: Taplinger, 1986.

Some 18th century guides to 'making' pen are incomplete since they bought quills ready to cut.

To read more about quill pens and handwriting, see:

<http://regencyredingote.wordpress.com/2009/09/11/the-quill-the-regency-pen> "The Quill": an excellent overview

*Learning to Read and Write in Colonial America*, Monaghan, J. E.. Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2005.

*The Story of Writing*. Jackson, Donald, Calligraphy Centre, 1981, 176 p.

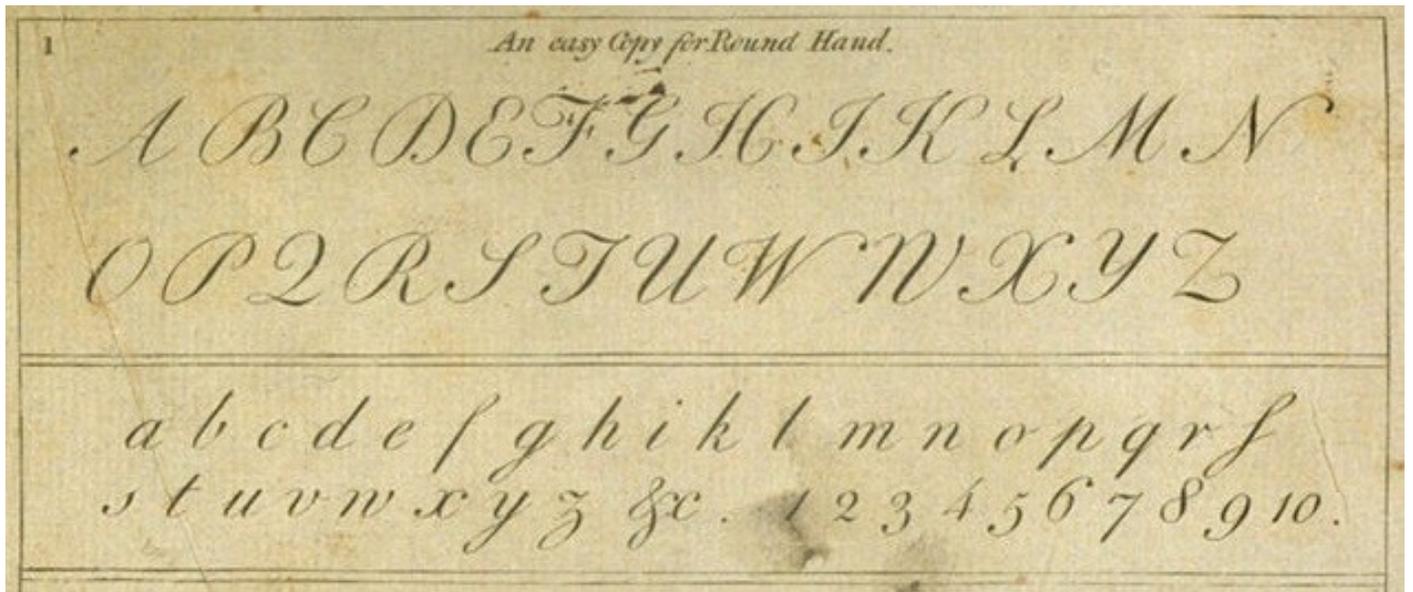
*Western Writing Implements in the Age of the Quill Pen*. Finlay, Michael. Carlisle UK: Plains Book, 1990.

*Writing Implements and Accessories: From the Roman Stylus to the Typewriter*. Whalley, Joyce Irene, Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1975.

*The Art of Calligraphy, Western Europe & America*. Whalley, Joyce Irene, Bloomsbury 1980. 400 pages.

*Writing, Illuminating and Lettering*. Johnston, Edward, London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons Ltd, 1946.

*Handwriting in America: A Cultural History*. Tamara Plakins Thornton. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1996. 248 pages. Handwriting as a cultural artifact. "Chapter one covers the colonial period when the ability to write was supposed to reflect one's social position, and style of script was supposed to match one's social identity.... Handwriting was compartmentalized into an array of scripts, each one intended to match one's gender and status."



from *The Instructor, or American Young Man's Best Companion*, by George Fisher, 1786

## Iron Gall Ink

Iron gall ink was the ink of Europe and America through the 18th century. Iron gall ink is a chemical preparation which reacts with the writing surface to make a permanent black line. It is not a liquid dye, nor is it a suspension of pigment particles as are Chinese and India inks and paint. It is made with oak galls, a round growth on some oak stems, and hydrous ferrous sulfate known as green copperas, with some gum arabic.

"Iron gall inks are available from specialty stores for example, <http://www.paperinkarts.com/> and <http://www.johnnealbooks.com>. Look for McCaffery's, Walker's, or Blott's iron gall inks. A new source for iron gall ink, Old World Ink, has recently become available and may be found at [www.oldworldink.com](http://www.oldworldink.com). All are excellent and are made from old formulae." - R. Huford.

Making iron gall ink is possible for the dedicated hobbyist; see:

[http://irongallink.org/igi\\_indexc69f.html](http://irongallink.org/igi_indexc69f.html)      The Iron Gall Ink Website

<http://www.fountainpennetwork.com/forum/index.php/forum/126-inky-recipes/>

<http://www.fountainpennetwork.com/forum/index.php/topic/249871-how-to-make-iron-gall-ink/>

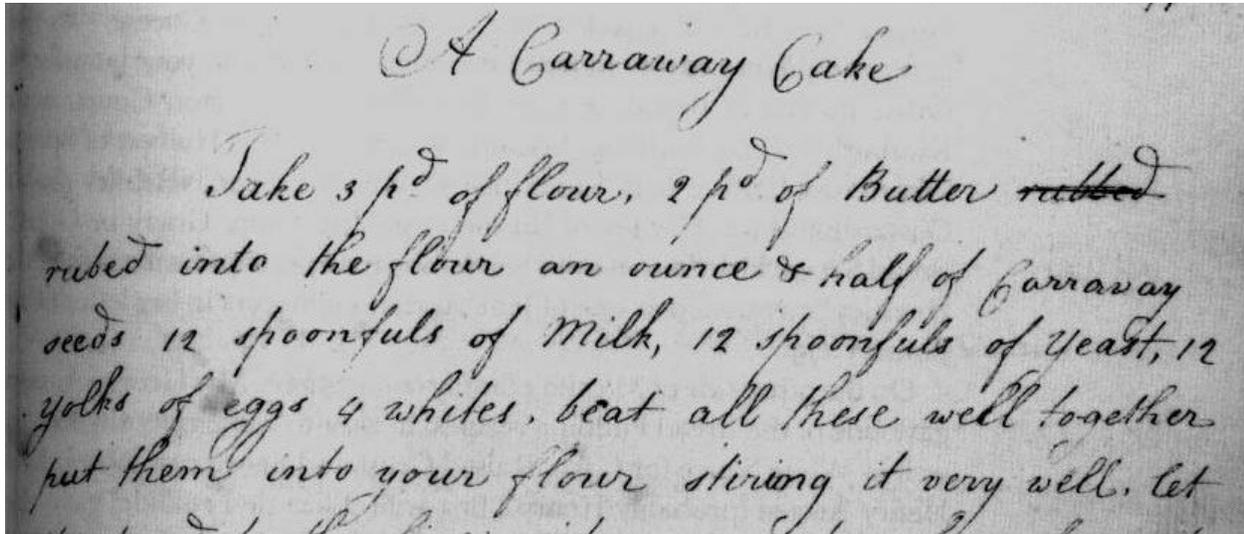
<http://www.fountainpennetwork.com/forum/index.php/topic/234759-california-live-oak-iron-gall-ink-recipe/>  
<http://www.fountainpennetwork.com/forum/index.php/topic/270184-homemade-us-government-standard-iron-gall-ink/>  
-- this uses laboratory chemicals to make a very good ink, with iron-gall ink chemistry.

<http://www.open-ink.com/home> "To create free, publicly available, fountain pen ink formulations."  
<http://www.open-ink.com/inks/old-recipes/iron-gall/modern-jane-austen-ink> - with photos of oak galls

<https://sites.google.com/a/open-ink.com/open-ink/inks/old-recipes/iron-gall>  
<https://sites.google.com/a/open-ink.com/open-ink/inks/old-recipes/principles-for-stability-longevity-for-iron-gall-inks>

<http://evanlindquist.com/othermedia/oldinkrecipes.html>

<http://www.worldwideschool.org/library/books/tech/printing/FortyCenturiesofInk/chap16.html> - ink history



A recipe by Martha Lloyd, of Chawton Cottage, a sample of daily round hand with a quill pen circa 1810.

## Regency period

The recent fad for all things Jane Austen has produced documentation about writing around 1800-1815. There was little difference in writing style or materials from say 1765 to say 1820, so this also applies to the colonial period.

<http://jasna.org/persuasions/on-line/vol30no1/hurford.html>. "Handwriting in the Time of Jane Austen" - excellent

<http://regencyredingote.wordpress.com/2009/09/11/the-quill-the-regency-pen/>

<http://regencyredingote.wordpress.com/2009/09/18/ink-regency-writing-fluid/>

<http://regencyredingote.wordpress.com/2012/11/16/sealing-wax/>

<http://regencyredingote.wordpress.com/category/penmanship/>

<http://janeaustensworld.wordpress.com/tag/letter-writing-in-jane-austens-time/>

<http://janeaustensworld.wordpress.com/tag/quill-pens/>

The Jane Austen's Fiction Manuscripts Digital Edition: <http://www.janeausten.ac.uk/index.html>

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October 2, 2014.

Round Hand Script Alphabet

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 & m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
1234567890 & m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

f h k l

G. Washington