

Writing With A Quill Pen

Holding the Pen

It's not hard to write with a quill, but it does take practice. First, hold the pen so that when the point rests on the paper, the cut-out side is down. You should always be able to see the split in the quill as you write.

Writing Pressure

Light! Light! Light! I tell people when writing with a quill, think of it as a paintbrush, and pretend you are painting the letters on the page. The more pressure you use when you write, the more ink comes out of the pen, and you'll have to dip it in the ink much more often. You should be able to write an entire line without "going to the well too often".

Making an Eighteenth Century Envelope

The dotted lines shown here represent where you should fold the paper. Fold along the long lines (vertical) first. Then, fold the bottom up and the top down. You can tuck the bottom into the top along the folds, or you can seal the letter where the folds come together with some sealing wax. Typically, letters were addressed on the top fold in the center with the recipient's name and town. Such as:

*R. Sullivan
Elverfon, Penna.*