

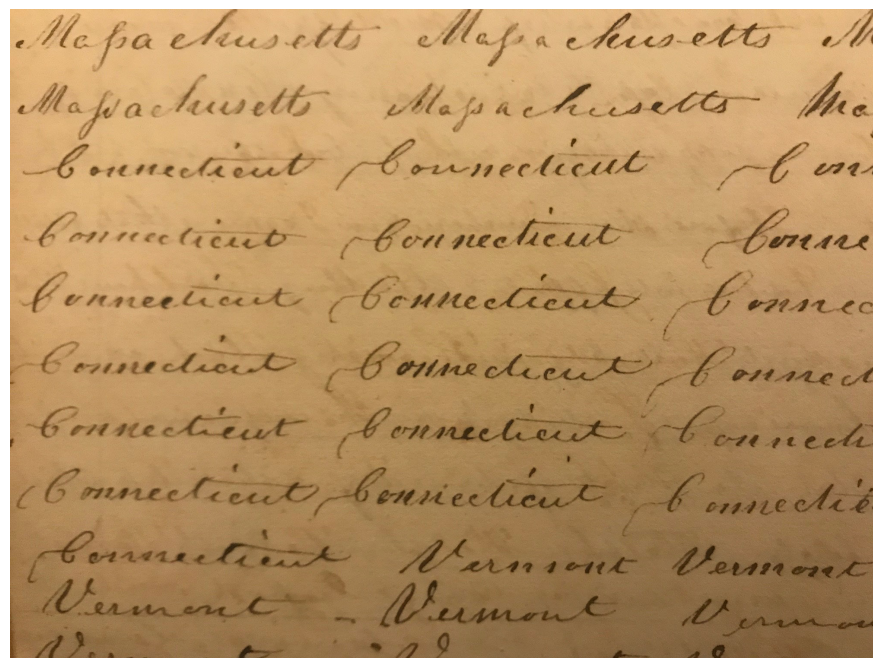
Welcome to the Litchfield Historical Society's Cursive Course!

The ability to read and write cursive is an important skill. Cursive writing is a form of penmanship where the writer connects all the letters in the word in one continuous flow. Being able to write cursive makes it easier to and faster to write by hand and can even help you remember information better.

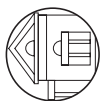
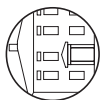
Like many skills, cursive handwriting and good penmanship must be learned through practice. The goal is for your handwriting to be neat and easy to read. After becoming familiar with the shape and flow of letters, you can practice reading cursive writing by transcribing, or copying, letters and documents from the Litchfield Historical Society's collection.

This course will introduce how to write cursive letters and provide opportunities for practice and perfecting penmanship. The letters are taught in groups that are formed in a similar manner. Each lesson takes approximately 45 mins- 1 hour. It is encouraged that you do not rush and focus on writing neat, easy to read letters.

- Lesson 1 – Rockin' round Letters – a-c-d-g-q
- Lesson 2 – Climb and Slide Letters – i – t- u- w
- Lesson 3 – Loopy Letters – e – l – h – k – b – f- j
- Lesson 4 – Lumpy Letters – n – m- v – x
- Lesson 5- Mix – p – r –s- o-y-z
- Lesson 6 – Capital Letters
- Lesson 7 – Reading Historical Documents



Penmanship practice done by Litchfield Female Academy Student Harriet Lucretia Grant. Harriet was a student at the LFA from 1829-1831.
Litchfield Historical Society Helga J. Ingraham Memorial Library



Correct Hand Position

Hold the pencil or pen loosely about $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" above the point. Hold it between your thumb and index (pointer) finger. Do not grip the pencil tightly, or your hand will become very tired. Keep the wrist rolled down toward the paper.

Correct Posture

Sit up tall slightly leaning forward but not bending over your desk. Have your feet flat on the floor and both arms resting on the desk or table. Hold your paper with your free hand.

This penmanship drawing was done by William Harrison Green while he was imprisoned in Litchfield in 1868. Litchfield Historical Society Collection.

