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Andrew Fiss* (afiss@mtu.edu), Michigan Technological University, 341 Walker Arts & Humanities Center, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931-1295. *Who's Anna? Burying Mathematics Books in order to Remember the Civil War Dead at Nineteenth-Century New England Colleges*. Preliminary report.

The nineteenth century witnessed the emergence and flourishing of a peculiar student tradition in American colleges: elaborate funerals for mathematics textbooks. First developing in what students at early-century Yale and Williams called “Burials of Euclid,” these ceremonies took on added significance in the years immediately following the Civil War, when Americans experienced death and its trappings on an unprecedented scale. This paper focuses on the “Burials of Anna Lytics,” events that occurred in 1870s Bowdoin College that increasingly adopted items of funereal practice, including a headstone marked “Anna.” In asking, “Who’s Anna?” as later students, professors, and college administrators did, this paper argues for the reconceptualization of these student rituals not as mere acts of destruction but as acts of remembrance, as well. In doing so, it brings together strands in the recent scholarship about Civil War death with histories of American mathematics education. (Received January 19, 2015)