

1116-D1-1287 **Jill R. Duke*** (jrduke@nmsu.edu). *“Arithmetic Simplified” (1832): The Story Behind Catharine Beecher’s Most Unrecognized Work.*

A personal tragedy in the life of Catharine E. Beecher (1800-1878) inspired an intellectual awareness resulting in her becoming a prominent advocate and reformer of women’s education. Despite early American opinion that formal education of females was impractical and uneconomical, she petitioned for funds and in 1823, 1833 and 1850 opened schools for girls that taught advanced topics such as mathematics. A 19th century American writer, Catharine authored numerous books and articles addressing topics of her era including suffrage and the role of women in society as mothers and educators. She also developed her own course material and published textbooks. One of her earliest but least recognized works is a math textbook titled “Arithmetic Simplified.”

This presentation begins with an introduction of Catharine Beecher’s accomplishments as an educator and writer followed by an exploration of her educational background to discover what mathematics she learned as well as where and from whom she learned it. In conclusion, Catharine’s motivation to write a mathematics textbook and her philosophy of education are discussed. (Received September 18, 2015)