1056-01-692 Andrew B Perry* (perryand@yahoo.com). French and English Influences On Early American Mathematics.

Clearly England had a profound effect on the mathematics studied in America in the eighteenth century. Until 1800 or so, most American math books in use had been imported from England or at least written by English Authors. (It should be noted that early American mathematical activity consisted of study rather than research, in most cases at elementary levels.) In the first half of the nineteenth century, however, the tide turned. Americans, apparently inspired by the superior mathematical achievements as well as mathematical exposition of the French at that time, began to follow the French mathematically to a much greater extent. For example, the most prolific American textbook author in the nineteenth century, Charles Davies, borrowed heavily from French sources. We will examine the transition between the dominant English and dominant French influence through the examination of early American mathematical texts and comparison with French and English works. We will focus especially on texts authored between 1800 and 1850. (Received September 16, 2009)