**Artifact Bag Narrative**

 My name is Benjamin Spiers and I am from Dinwiddie County, VA which is an hour south of Richmond. Dinwiddie and the surrounding area is full of Civil War history, which helps explain my interest in Civil War history and reading Civil War books like *Mosby’s Rangers*. I also do not live far from other important historical sites like Jamestown, which is why I am interested in Virginia and American history. Dinwiddie and the surrounding area also is a very religious area of the state, which helps explain my Methodist background and why I received the twelve disciples’ keychain. Living near the Nottoway River as well as taking trips to the Blue Ridge Mountains is why I enjoy the outdoors, and have put plenty of tent stakes into the ground. I have also have an interest in more modern history, government, and politics. Virginia has always had significant defense presence with numerous military bases across the state, and now the Commonwealth is a political battleground state. This is why I have read modern history and government books like *One Minute to Midnight*. Sports like baseball are also popular in Dinwiddie and the surrounding area. This explains why I played baseball as a kid, and have my left handed glove. All of these interests and the items in my artifact bag are why I look forward to teaching Social Studies.