Analysis of 2010 Chamberlain House Excavation Artifacts

Chelsea Gross, 2013

The Riley Fellowship allowed me to accomplish three goals in preparation for my Honors Project. First, I organized the Excel Document that contains my inventory of the artifacts from the excavation outside of the Joshua L. Chamberlain House Museum in the fall of 2010. I arranged the artifact data into separate spreadsheets for each of the four excavation units, and further separated the data for each unit by the excavation level of the artifacts. After creating the new spreadsheets, I performed a number of simple statistical tests on each of the four units of data. I also graphed the weight and count of the artifacts by excavation unit and level.

Second, I returned to the work of my Independent Study in the spring of 2011. At the conclusion of the course, we selected twelve artifacts from the excavation that carried written marks. Our time only allowed us to do simple research on the objects. My second goal this summer was to properly research these artifacts. I created three to five page documents outlining the information related to each artifact. In many cases, I was able to find an exact replica of the artifact from a collector or museum.

Third, I visited Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: the place of a great moment in Joshua Chamberlain’s life. I spent time at the Memorial to the Twentieth Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which honors Chamberlain as he was instructed to hold this ground “at all hazards.” Seeing the woods where Chamberlain accomplished this great feat, I was able to develop an understanding of how the Battle of Gettysburg, and the slope of Little Round Top, affected him for the rest of his life.

Memorial to the Twentieth Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

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