

OPEN ACCESS: MAC Book Notes

Illinois State Archaeological Survey Research Reports

An Early Nineteenth Century Farmstead in Western Illinois: The Seibert Site

*Matthew E. Cross
Mark C. Branstner*



**ILLINOIS STATE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Research Report 31

Published by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey, 2014. 204 pp., \$32.50 (paper).

Copyright © 2016 Midwest Archaeological Conference, Inc. All rights reserved.

Located adjacent to Scott Air Force Base in northeastern St. Clair County, Illinois, the Seibert site (11S801) represents one of the earliest farmsteads in Shiloh Valley Township, continually occupied for nearly 200 years. David and Polly Everett first settled the site in 1811 and retained it until 1833, at which time it was sold to Joseph Ledergerber. Ledergerber, in turn, occupied the site until 1861, before selling the property to Hiram Pierce. The property again changed hands in the early twentieth century, when purchased by George Seibert.

The 2010 excavation of the 1.3 acre Seibert site led to the discovery of 47 subsurface features and the recovery of more than 20,000 individual artifacts, largely relating to the antebellum Everett and Ledergerber occupations. These features remained largely undisturbed by the subsequent occupations, demonstrating both changing site use and disposal patterns in post-bellum southwest Illinois.

The earliest (Everett) occupation occurred when the area was very much still the American frontier and subject to only moderate growth. The succeeding Ledergerber occupation occurred during a period of exponential regional growth, and thus Ledergerber lived in a much more established Euro-American community. The Everett farm had been a struggling, small-scale subsistence operation; Ledergerber transformed it to a very successful, commercial farm. This transformation can be seen in the material culture, not especially in type, but most certainly in quantity.

Sociocultural differences between the occupants were also observed, especially as noted in alcohol consumption patterns. The Everetts were likely devout Methodists (Polly's father having been a Methodist preacher), with no alcoholic beverage containers identified with their household. On the other hand, Ledergerber, a Swiss-German emigrant, was responsible for a minimum of 43 alcoholic bottles, dominated by wine, and 36 drinking glasses, including three stemware wine glasses. The wine bottles include only three hock bottles characteristic of the Rhine River region where Ledergerber was raised; the vast majority of the bottles were, surprisingly, the French Bordeaux style. It appears Ledergerber's service in the Swiss Guard under Charles X of France had clear effects on his taste and choice in alcoholic beverages.

Additionally, comparative data of early regional occupations came from Polly Everett's father's homestead (the Branscum site [11S1060]), located in the parcel to the immediate south. The Branscum site was excavated in 1996 and described in 2002 by Robert Mazrim. This facilitated a minor comparison between matching vessel patterns identified at both sites, potentially showing material exchange between the two, or at minimum, further reinforce the limited consumer choices available on the frontier.

Contents

List of Figures.....vii
List of Tablesxi
Abstract.....xiii
Acknowledgments xv

1 Introduction 1

2 Project Setting 5
 Environmental Setting.....5
 Historical Setting.....6
 General Land Use and Historical Context.....6
 Specific Land Use and Property History 11

3 Methodology 17
 Field Methods..... 17
 Laboratory Methods 17
 Introduction 17
 General Analytical Considerations 18

4 Results of Field Investigations 23
 Introduction 23
 Feature Descriptions 26
 Feature 1.....26
 Feature 2.....28
 Feature 3.....33
 Feature 4.....34
 Feature 5.....34
 Feature 6.....34
 Feature 7.....35
 Feature 8.....37
 Feature 9.....37
 Feature 10.....39
 Feature 11.....39
 Feature 12.....41
 Feature 13.....41
 Feature 14.....41
 Feature 15.....41
 Feature 16.....41
 Feature 17.....42
 Feature 18.....44
 Feature 19.....44
 Feature 20.....44
 Feature 22.....44
 Feature 23.....46
 Feature 24.....46
 Feature 25.....46
 Feature 26.....49
 Feature 27.....51

Book Notes

An Early Nineteenth Century Farmstead in Western Illinois: The Stebert Site

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Feature 28..... | 51 |
| Feature 29..... | 51 |
| Feature 30..... | 53 |
| Feature 34..... | 55 |
| Feature 35..... | 56 |
| Feature 36..... | 57 |
| Feature 37..... | 57 |
| Feature 38..... | 57 |
| Feature 39..... | 59 |
| Feature 40..... | 62 |
| Feature 41..... | 62 |
| Feature 42..... | 62 |
| Feature 44..... | 62 |
| Feature 45..... | 62 |
| Feature 46..... | 63 |
| Feature 47..... | 64 |
| Feature 48..... | 65 |
| Feature 49..... | 66 |
| Feature 50..... | 66 |
| Feature 51..... | 66 |
| Feature 52..... | 66 |
| Feature 53..... | 67 |
| Feature 54..... | 69 |
| Feature 55..... | 70 |
| Feature 56..... | 70 |
| Feature 57..... | 70 |
| Feature 58..... | 70 |
| Feature 59..... | 70 |
| Feature 61..... | 70 |
| Feature 62..... | 71 |
| Feature 63..... | 71 |
| Feature 65..... | 72 |
| Feature 66..... | 73 |
| Feature 67..... | 74 |
| Feature 68..... | 75 |
| Post Mold and Drain Descriptions..... | 75 |
| Post Mold 1..... | 75 |
| Post Mold 2..... | 75 |
| Post Mold 6..... | 75 |
| Post Mold 22..... | 75 |
| Post Mold 23..... | 75 |
| Post Mold 26..... | 76 |
| Post Mold 28..... | 76 |
| Post Mold 29..... | 78 |
| Post Mold 30..... | 76 |
| Post Mold 31..... | 76 |
| Post Mold 44..... | 76 |
| Drain 1..... | 76 |
| Drain 3..... | 77 |

Book Notes

Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 5 Material Culture | 79 |
| Introduction | 79 |
| Kitchen Artifact Group | 79 |
| Ceramics | 80 |
| Refined Ceramics..... | 80 |
| Unrefined Ceramics..... | 95 |
| Glass..... | 103 |
| Tableware..... | 110 |
| Metal..... | 115 |
| Vessels and Cooking..... | 116 |
| Domestic Tools..... | 117 |
| Architectural Group..... | 119 |
| Furniture Group..... | 119 |
| Arms Group..... | 122 |
| Clothing and Accessories Group | 123 |
| Personal Group..... | 127 |
| Activities Group..... | 129 |
| 6 Faunal Remains | 133 |
| Introduction | 133 |
| Method of Analysis..... | 133 |
| Results..... | 134 |
| Mammals | 134 |
| Birds | 136 |
| Other Taxa..... | 136 |
| Modified Bone..... | 136 |
| Distribution..... | 136 |
| Discussion | 136 |
| 7 Site Discussion | 139 |
| Historical Evidence..... | 139 |
| Archaeological Evidence | 140 |
| Spatial Analysis..... | 141 |
| Material Culture..... | 145 |
| Regional Comparisons..... | 151 |
| Reprise..... | 154 |

Appendices

To facilitate the production process, long appendices tables are available online in their original Excel or PDF format and are not included in the paper copy of this report. Copy the URLs below and paste them into a web browser to download the data. Excel and Acrobat Reader or similar programs that can open .xls and .pdf files are required.

- A** Refined Ceramics: Minimum Vessel Count (MVC) Descriptions
http://tsas.illinois.edu/publications/data/TARR/31/11S801_Seibert_Appendix_A.xls
- B** Unrefined Ceramics: Minimum Vessel Count (MVC) Descriptions
http://tsas.illinois.edu/publications/data/TARR/31/11S801_Seibert_Appendix_B.xls
- C** Container Glass: Minimum Vessel Count (MVC) Descriptions Predicated on Rim and Closure Descriptions
http://tsas.illinois.edu/publications/data/TARR/31/11S801_Seibert_Appendix_C.xls

Book Notes

An Early Nineteenth Century Farmstead in Western Illinois: The Seibert Site

- D** Container Glass: Minimum Vessel Count (MVC) Descriptions Predicated on Base Descriptions
http://tsas.illinois.edu/publications/data/TARR/31/11S801_Seibert_Appendix_D.xls
- E** General Artifact Catalog
http://tsas.illinois.edu/publications/data/TARR/31/11S801_Seibert_Appendix_E.xls

References.....167

Figures

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 1.1. | Location of the Seibert site (11S801)..... | 2 |
| 1.2. | 11S801 site limits and mechanized stripping blocks | 3 |
| 2.1. | Soil map of 11S801 site area | 5 |
| 2.2. | Study area ca. 1815 | 7 |
| 2.3. | Study area ca. 1837 | 8 |
| 2.4. | Study area ca. 1863 | 9 |
| 2.5. | Study area ca. 1874 | 10 |
| 2.6. | Study area ca. 1901 | 10 |
| 2.7. | Study area ca. 1936 | 11 |
| 2.8. | Aerial photograph of farmstead taken in 1940 | 15 |
| 4.1. | 11S801: plan view of excavation block and feature locations..... | 24 |
| 4.2. | Mechanized stripping of 11S801 site area..... | 25 |
| 4.3. | Easternmost mechanized stripping block, viewed to southeast: Mid-America St. Louis Airport visible in distance | 25 |
| 4.4. | Typical view of 11S801 excavation block | 26 |
| 4.5. | Typical view of 11S801 excavation block | 27 |
| 4.6. | Feature 1: plan and profile views | 28 |
| 4.7. | Feature 2 and Drain 1: plan and profile views..... | 32 |
| 4.8. | Feature 2: blue edged wares exposed in feature fill | 33 |
| 4.9. | Feature 3: plan view | 34 |
| 4.10. | Feature 3: profile views..... | 35 |
| 4.11. | Features 5-7: plan and profile views | 36 |
| 4.12. | Feature 9 and Post Molds 1-2: plan and profile views | 38 |
| 4.13. | Features 10-12 and 67: plan view | 40 |
| 4.14. | Features 10-12: profile views..... | 40 |
| 4.15. | Feature 14: plan and profile views | 42 |
| 4.16. | Features 15-17 and 58, and Post Mold 30: plan and profile views | 43 |
| 4.17. | Features 18 and 20: plan and profile views | 45 |
| 4.18. | Features 22, 56-57, and 61: plan view..... | 46 |
| 4.19. | Features 22, 56-57, and 61: profile views | 47 |
| 4.20. | Feature 22: west half of east-west (E-F) profile cut, view to north..... | 48 |
| 4.21. | Features 23-24, and 49: plan and profile views | 49 |
| 4.22. | Feature 25: plan and profile view..... | 50 |
| 4.23. | Feature 25: west portion of east-west (C-D) profile cut, view to south..... | 51 |
| 4.24. | Features 26, 28, 47-48, and 51: plan and profile views..... | 52 |
| 4.25. | Feature 29: plan and profile views | 54 |
| 4.26. | Features 30 and 50: plan and profile views | 55 |
| 4.27. | Features 34 and 35: plan and profile views..... | 56 |
| 4.28. | Feature 38: plan and profile views | 58 |
| 4.29. | Feature 39: plan and profile views | 60 |
| 4.30. | Feature 39: west half of east-west (C-D) profile cut, view to north | 61 |
| 4.31. | Feature 41, and Post Molds 22-23, 26, and 31: plan and profile views | 63 |
| 4.32. | Features 42, 46, and 54, and Post Mold 61: plan and profile views..... | 64 |
| 4.33. | Features 44 and 45, and Post Mold 8: plan and profile views | 65 |
| 4.34. | Feature 53 and Post Molds 28-29: plan and profile views | 68 |
| 4.35. | Feature 53: brick privy vault after excavation, view to north | 69 |
| 4.36. | Features 54, 55, and 68: plan and profile views | 71 |
| 4.37. | Features 59 and 65, and Drain 1: plan and profile views | 72 |

An Early Nineteenth Century Farmstead in Western Illinois: The Stebert Site

| | | |
|--------------|---|-----|
| 4.38. | Feature 59: exposed remnant limestone structure corner and Drain 1 | 73 |
| 4.39. | Features 63 and 66: plan and profile views | 74 |
| 5.1. | Refined ceramics — Staffordshire blue transfer prints: (a) V68, (b) V67, (c) V56, (d) V65, and (e) V59 | 81 |
| 5.2. | Refined ceramics — transfer prints: (a) blue Willow pattern (V66) and (b) red Aleppo pattern (V76) | 82 |
| 5.3. | Refined ceramics — holloware vessel (V83) combining flown transfer print, sponge/spatter, and painted design elements | 83 |
| 5.4. | Refined ceramics — small-stroke painted: (a) V87, (b) V92, (c) V85, (d) V93, and (e) V115 | 83 |
| 5.5. | Refined ceramics — China-glaze painted: (a) V171 and (b) V125 | 84 |
| 5.6. | Refined ceramics and glass — 11S801 vessels with duplicates at the nearby Branscum site (11S1060): (a) V96, (b) B113, and (c) V95 | 84 |
| 5.7. | Refined ceramics — early broad-brush [(a) V102 and (b) V99] and middle period [(c) V10] painted saucers | 85 |
| 5.8. | Refined ceramics — broad-brush and earlier painted teacups: (a) V123 and (b) V168 | 86 |
| 5.9. | Refined ceramics — two-tone monochrome blue broad-brush cup and saucer set: (a) V128 and (b) V112 | 86 |
| 5.10. | Refined ceramics — middle period and sprig painted saucers: (a) V145, (b) V131, and (c) V146 | 87 |
| 5.11. | Refined ceramics — sprig painted cups: (a) V154 and (b) V155 | 88 |
| 5.12. | Refined ceramics — annular mocha bowls with green, blue, and unpigmented rouletting at rim: (a) V187, (b) V185, (c) V189, and (d) V186 | 89 |
| 5.13. | Refined ceramics — green shell-edged (a) V196 and (b) V195 | 90 |
| 5.14. | Refined ceramics — embossed blue shell-edged: (a) V199 and (b) V197 | 91 |
| 5.15. | Refined ceramics — blue shell-edged with irregular rim: (a) V208, (b) V204, and (c) V217 | 91 |
| 5.16. | Refined ceramics — blue sponge/spatter: (a) V238 and (b) V237 | 92 |
| 5.17. | Refined ceramics — creamware barrel pitcher (V240) | 93 |
| 5.18. | Refined ceramics — miscellaneous molded ceramics: (a) V265, (b) V271, (c) V268, and (d) V239 | 94 |
| 5.19. | Refined ceramics — overglaze painted porcelain: (a) V280, (b) V284, (c) V283, and (d) V285 | 95 |
| 5.20. | Refined ceramics — Partianware or unglazed porcelain pitcher (V287) | 96 |
| 5.21. | Unrefined ceramics — lead-glazed and tin-glazed redware: (a) V330, (b) V336, (c) V342, and (d) V332 | 97 |
| 5.22. | Unrefined ceramics — chambersticks: (a) glazed buff earthenware grease lamp (V351) and (b) brass and iron base to chamberstick (F38) | 98 |
| 5.23. | Unrefined ceramics — molded and Rockingham glazed red/yellowares: (a) V367 and (b) V354 and V367 | 99 |
| 5.24. | Unrefined ceramics — annular yellowware with slip banding, mocha, and dendritic decorations: (a) V361, (b) V360, and (c) V363 | 100 |
| 5.25. | Unrefined ceramics — salt-glazed stoneware: (a) V301, (b) V309, (c) V295, and (d) V293 | 101 |
| 5.26. | Unrefined ceramics — salt-glazed stoneware mineral water or gin bottle (V289) | 102 |
| 5.27. | Unrefined ceramics — Upper Alton-type salt-glazed stoneware: (a) V311 and (b) V308 | 103 |
| 5.28. | Unrefined ceramics — upper portion of two-tone British Bristol-glazed stoneware bottle/ jug (V318) and Albany-slipped, jigger-molded stoneware bowl rim (V315) | 104 |
| 5.29. | Glass — medium olive-green wine bottle bases: (a) B9, (b) B7, and (c) B17 | 105 |
| 5.30. | Glass — medium olive-green wine bottle bases: (a) push-up with mameleon and no pontil mark (B19) and (b) push-up with raw glass pontil scar (B6) | 105 |

Book Notes

Contents

| | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| 5.31. | Glass — medium olive-green wine bottle necks: (a) R5, (b) R14, (c) R17, and (d) R11..... | 106 |
| 5.32. | Glass — amber <i>hock</i> wine bottle necks: (a) R23, (b) R22, and (c) R25..... | 107 |
| 5.33. | Glass — light green wine bottle base (B29) and rim (R26)..... | 107 |
| 5.34. | Glass — English <i>wine</i> bottle (R1/B6)..... | 108 |
| 5.35. | Glass — medium olive-green <i>lady's leg</i> bottle necks: (a) R30 and (b) R20..... | 109 |
| 5.36. | Glass — dark olive-green square or <i>case</i> -shaped gin bottle: R31..... | 110 |
| 5.37. | Glass — miscellaneous alcohol bottles: (a) R32/B36 and (b) R34/B38..... | 111 |
| 5.38. | Glass — miscellaneous bottles: (a) B45, (b) B77, (c) B37, and (d) R60..... | 112 |
| 5.39. | Glass — <i>John Bull // Extract of Sassailla // Louisville KY</i> (R35/B39)..... | 113 |
| 5.40. | Glass — miscellaneous bottles: (a) R36/B42, (b) R59/B52, (c) B41, and (d) R37/B40..... | 114 |
| 5.41. | Glass — miscellaneous bottles: (a) R44/B67 and (b) R55..... | 114 |
| 5.42. | Glass — vial bases with glass rod pontil scars: (a) B62, (b) B47, (c) B63, (d) B56, (e) B57, and (f) B58..... | 115 |
| 5.43. | Glass — round tumblers: (a) R65/B82 and (b) R63/B80..... | 116 |
| 5.44. | Glass — molded tumblers: (a) R72/B107, (b) R74/B110, (c) R68/B102, and (d) R69/B103..... | 117 |
| 5.45. | Glass — stemware: (a) B112, (b) B111, and (c) R74..... | 118 |
| 5.46. | Glass — molded and pressed: (a) R79, (b) R77/B114, and (c) R76/B113..... | 118 |
| 5.47. | Metal — knives and flatware: (a) folding penknife (F38), (b) knife (F22), (c) pewter bowl (F38), (d) iron handle (F22), (e) iron fork (F38), (f) folding jackknife (F38), (g) knife (F38), (h) pewter spoon (F22), and (i) pewter handle (F38)..... | 119 |
| 5.48. | Metal — mop head (F38)..... | 120 |
| 5.49. | Metal — apple peeler (F38)..... | 120 |
| 5.50. | Metal — architectural hardware: (a) pintle (F22), (b) pintle (F22), (c) strap hinge (F38), (d) door pull (F38), and (e) hinge (F53)..... | 121 |
| 5.51. | Lamps and lighting — glass candlesticks: (a–b) F38..... | 122 |
| 5.52. | Lamps and lighting — oil lamp components: (a) whale oil glass chimney (F38), (b) kerosene glass chimney (F53), (c) wick holder (F29), (d) white metal finial (F38), and (e) wick holder (F29)..... | 123 |
| 5.53. | Firearms — miscellaneous related artifacts: (a) gunflint (F22), (b) gunflint (F22), (c) shotgun shell base (F38), (d) commercial percussion cap container (F38), (e) cartridge casing (F29), (f) lead shot (Drain 1), (g) lead shot with casting sprue (F30), (h) lead slug (F23), (i) ramrod thimble (F38), (j) ramrod ferrule (F53), and (k) probable barrel-keeper pin (F22)..... | 124 |
| 5.54. | Clothing — metal buckles: (a–d) F38 and (e) F11..... | 125 |
| 5.55. | Clothing — buttons: (a) glass (F29), (b) glass (F38), (c) glass (F29), (d) glass (F38), (e) shell (F53), (f) shell with brass shank (F53), (g) shell (F38), (h) shell (F53), (i) shell (F53), (j) horn (F2), (k) horn (F29), (l) iron rivet (F38), (m) fabric-covered white metal (F29), (n) iron four-hole (F38), (o) brass four-hole (F53), (p) decorated brass (F22), (q) plain brass (F22), and (r) plain tombac (F53)..... | 126 |
| 5.56. | Clothing and personal accessories — (a) thimble (F1), (b) straight pin (F53), (c) heel plate (F53), (d) ivory handle (F38), and (e) bone handle (F53)..... | 128 |
| 5.57. | Hair care and adornment — (a) plastic decorative comb (F38), (b) brass comb tooth (F38), (c) louse comb (F22), and (d) hard rubber hairpin (F53)..... | 128 |
| 5.58. | Jewelry — (a) enameled pin or pendant (F29), (b) hat badge (F38), (c) child's rings (F59/Drain 3), (d) bead (F2), and (e) agate (F29)..... | 129 |
| 5.59. | Children's toys — (a) doll (F29), (b) doll (F53), and (c) marble (F53)..... | 130 |
| 5.60. | Tobacco smoking — (a) pewter pipe (F22), (b) clay stem (F22), (c) iron bowl (F38), (d) stoneware stem (F22), (e) porcelain coffeehouse pipe (F38), and (f) stoneware presidential pipe..... | 131 |
| 5.61. | Farm tools — scythe blades: (a) F17 and (b) F38..... | 132 |

Book Notes

An Early Nineteenth Century Farmstead in Western Illinois: The Stebert Site

| | | |
|--------------|--|-----|
| 5.62. | Writing and drawing implements: (a) slate pencil (F22) and (b) slate table (F53) | 132 |
| 7.1. | Feature associations: Everett Occupation (ca. 1811-1833)..... | 143 |
| 7.2. | Feature associations: Ledergerber Occupation (1833-1861)..... | 144 |
| 7.3. | Feature associations: Perce Occupation (1861-1900)..... | 147 |

Tables

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----|
| 2.1. | Primary General Land Office (GLO) claims in the surrounding area..... | 7 |
| 4.1. | Summary of feature-derived material culture | 29 |
| 4.2. | Summary of discarded feature-derived material culture | 30 |
| 4.3. | Feature descriptions and assemblage date ranges..... | 31 |
| 6.1. | Faunal remains by feature..... | 134 |
| 6.2. | Pork and beef cuts..... | 135 |
| 6.3. | Butchery evidence | 137 |
| 7.1. | Feature function, assemblage date range, and probable occupation association | 146 |

Book Notes



*Back top: Excavation at the Selbert site.
Back bottom (left-to-right): Feature 3 excavation; Feature 23 excavation;
screening at the Selbert site.
Photography by ISAS staff.*

*Front (left-to-right): Broad-brush painted teacup; middle-period painted saucer;
black "English wine" bottle; John Bull Extract of Sarsaparilla bottle; Blue shell-
edge plate, marked: Davenport (Manufacturer) Hendersen and Gaines, New
Orleans, (imported); thimble; possible small-stroke painted teacup; carved ivory
handle.
Photography by Linda Alexander and Matthew E. Cross.*

ISBN 978-1-930487-31-4 9 0000 >



9 781930 487314