

## Snyder County Historical Society

30 East Market Street • Middleburg, Pennsylvania 17842-0217

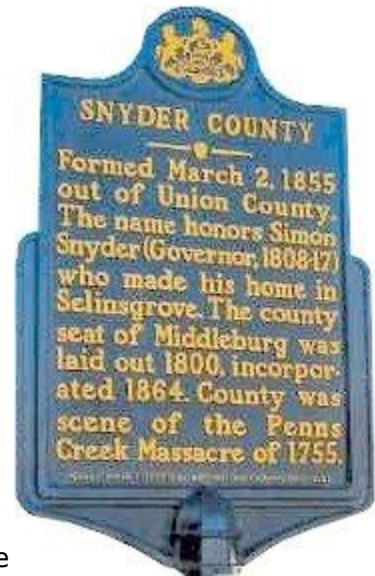
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### County History

**The area known as Snyder County** was settled in the 1740's by Pennsylvania Germans from Berks and Lancaster Counties, and became an independent political unit on March 2, 1855 when it was formed from part of Union County. Prior to that the area south of the Penns Creek was part of William Penn's initial land grant. Conrad Weiser negotiated the Treaty of Albany with Chief Shikellamy in 1754. That contract gave the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania all the land north of the Penns Creek to the New York border.



Snyder County took its name from its most famous citizen and political figure, [Simon Snyder](#). He was not only Governor of Pennsylvania for three-terms (1808-1817), but he was also a member of the State House of Representatives (1797-1808) and served as Speaker of the House for three-terms (1802-1808). He also served in the State Senate (1818-1819). Snyder was the only three-term Governor in the state's history and during this tenure the State Capitol was moved from Lancaster to Harrisburg in 1812.



**Governor Simon Snyder** [Ner Middleswarth](#), another prominent political figure, served in the State House of Representatives from 1815-1842, was elected Speaker in 1828 and 1836, served in the State Senate from 1848-1852, and in the US Congress from 1853-1855. Ira Fiss, a State Representative from 1937-1948, also served as Speaker of the House from 1943-1946.

Snyder County is famous for its Pennsylvania German language and culture, its agricultural heritage, and is known for its fraktur, Kentucky rifles, wood products industries, the Beaver Furnace, Susquehanna University, Rolling Green Park, the Kearns Car, and the many fairs, festivals, and auctions that keep our heritage alive. Some of its well known historic structures are the Governor Snyder Mansion, Pomfret's Castle, Schoch Block House, Pawling Station, ruins of the Pennsylvania Canal, and three covered bridges. It is also home to Snyder-Middleswarth State Park, the Tall Timbers Natural Area, and 13 Pennsylvania State Historical markers.

The Snyder County Historical society was formed on January 1, 1898 and for years met at various places throughout the county. Its collections were stored at Susquehanna University and were rarely on public display until it purchased the old First United Church of Christ building, a historic 1834 structure in Middleburg, on May 10, 1976. The building, which contained a Library and Museum, was dedicated on July 4, 1981. In 1999 a construction project got underway on the Stahl addition, to expand the Museum and Library. The addition was dedicated on October 15, 2000 and the refurbished Museum was dedicated in 2002

### State Historic Markers in Snyder County

**PENNSYLVANIA- CANAL (SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION)** ( US 11 & 15 at Port Trevorton.)  
**SIMON SNYDER** ( SR 2017 (old US 11 & 15) just S of Selinsgrove.)  
**[SIMON SNYDER MANSION]** ( Plaque: 121 N. Market St. (old US 11 & 15), Selinsgrove.)  
**COXEY'S ARMY** ( 814 N. Market St. (old US 11 & 15), Selinsgrove.)  
**PENNS CREEK MASSACRE** ( SR 2017 (old US 11 & 15) just N of Selinsgrove.)  
**SCHOCH BLOCKHOUSE** (US 522 at Kreamer.)  
**SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY** ( US 522, .5 mile W of old US 11 & 15, Selinsgrove.)  
**ALBANY PURCHASE** ( US 522 (old US 11 & 15) 1 mile N of Selinsgrove.)  
**[PENNS CREEK MASSACRE]** ( Plaque: S end Old Trail (just E of US 11 & 15), Penns Creek N of Selinsgrove.)  
**[HARRIS AMBUSH]** ( Plaque: on stone with previous plaque.)  
**SUNBLIRY** ( US 11 & 15, 4 miles N of Selinsgrove at Sunbury bridge.)  
**SHIKELLAMY** ( US 11, 5.4 miles N of Selinsgrove, entrance Shikellamy State Park.)