

## Snyder County

Created on March 2, 1855, from part of Union County and named for Governor Simon Snyder. Middleburg, the county seat, was laid out in 1800 and incorporated as a borough on September 25, 1860. It was on Middle Creek near the middle of former Centre Township, so its name became even more appropriate after the creation the county.

The lower Penns Creek Valley was settled about 1744. The area was included in the Albany Purchase of 1754. The Penns Creek Massacre of October 1755 was the start of Indian raids in the French and Indian War. The last Indian raid occurred in 1781. The population had a strong German element that continues to the present. The Susquehanna Division of Pennsylvania Canal opened in 1831, providing jobs and a means to market products. Gov. Simon Snyder lived in Selinsgrove. A disagreement about a new Union County courthouse led to separation from Union. A railroad arrived through Middlecreek Valley to Selinsgrove in 1871. The canal flourished for fifty years until it was destroyed by ice in 1904; the Middlecreek rail system was discontinued in the 1930s. There is a tradition of craft industries such as muzzleloaders, furniture, leather, boats, and shoes. Tanning, lumber, iron mining, and dredging for coal were all profitable in the past. Crushed stone and timber are still profitably extracted. Farms cover 45 percent of the land and are strong in swine, cattle, poultry, tobacco, and apples.

SNYDER COUNTY - 7th Class

Formed on March 2, 1855 from part of Union County

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Beavertown	Nov. 14, 1914	1810	Beaver Township
Freeburg	1920	1796	Washington Township
Middleburg	1864	1800	Center Township
Selinsgrove	Apr. 13, 1827	1787	Penn Township. Surrendered Borough Charter in 1829 and reincorporated on Sept. 24, 1853
Shamokin Dam	Aug. 1927	1745	Monroe Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Adams	Sept. 1874	1754	Beaver Township
Beaver	May 1787		Incorporated while part of Northumberland County
Center	Apr. 1805	1745	Penn and Beaver Townships
Chapman	Feb. 1820	1744	Penn and Washington Twps.
Franklin	May 28, 1853	1748	Center Township
Jackson	Feb. 24, 1854		Union, Limestone and Penn Townships
Middlecreek	Sept. 1838	1745	Washington, Center and Penn Townships
Monroe	May 23, 1856	1794	Penn and Union Townships
Penn	1758	1745	Incorporated before Northum- berland County was incorpo- rated in 1772
Perry	Feb. 1816	1752	Mahantango Township
Spring	May 25, 1885		Beaver, West Beaver and Adams Townships
Union	May 26, 1869	1766	Chapman Township
Washington	Dec. 14, 1818		Penn, Center and Mahantango Townships
West Beaver	May 16, 1843		Beaver Township
West Perry	Dec. 1858		Perry Township

1 Godcharles

2 George F. Dunkelberger, The Story of Snyder County (Selinsgrove, Pa.: Snyder County Historical Society, 1948).