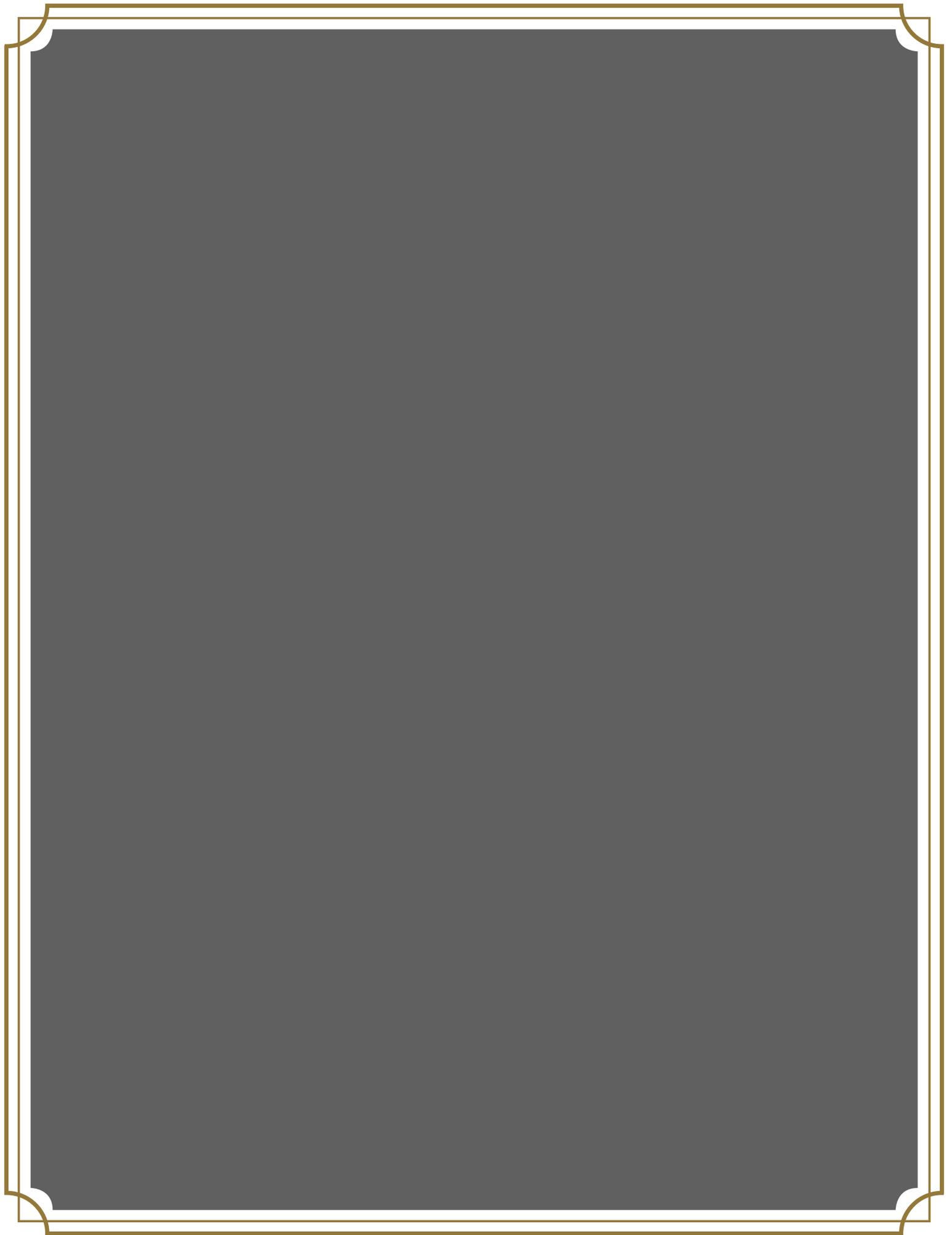




*WHITMER FAMILY*  
**SNYDER FAMILY LINE**





# CHARLES SNYDER

*March 5, 1790 - October 23, 1891*



## Historical Profile

Charles Snyder was born on 5 March 1790 in Hardy County, Virginia to his father Jacob Snyder (35 years old) and his mother Catherine (26 years old) as the second of 8 children. His older sibling John was 11 years old at the time of his birth. Both of his parents had lived through the Revolutionary War and the Unionization of the colonies into the United States of America. Prior to becoming a state, the Virginia Colony, where Charles was raised was the wealthiest and most populated colony in North America dominated by rich planters who were also highly religious. Anglican views eventually gave way to more popular Baptist, Methodist and other Protestant persuasions. Having been born late in the industrial revolution Charles would have benefited from the many technological advances such as the steam engine and cotton mill that improved many aspects of life including travel and clothing production. Virginia, in these early days also took in the states of West Virginia and Kentucky within its borders.

When Charles was 1 year old, his little brother George was born. Then his sister Sarah was born in 1792 when he

was 2 years old. Five years would then pass before his little brother Jacob was born in 1797. Then his sister Leah was born at the turn of the century when Charles was 10 years old. His youngest two brothers, Henry and Isaac were born in 1804 and 1805 respectively. Charles would have been a 15 year old young man by this time.

Thomas Jefferson had just made the Louisiana purchase doubling the size of the United States overnight. This opened the West to the booming immigrant population and new opportunities for all Americans to make a living. Lewis and Clark led their famous expedition west at this time, to explore and map the previously uncharted American interior. They returned with an abundance of information regarding plants, animals, and native peoples.

Charles never took part in the great westward migrations that began to take place from this time forward. Instead, at the age of 20, he met and married Catherine Halterman on 15 January 1811, and the two made their home in Mathias, Hardy County, Virginia. A year later in 1811 their first son James was born. The following year the war of 1812 broke out as Great Britain sought once again to regain land and motivate the U.S. to change some of its policies. This conflict stretched out over the next several

years until Andrew Jackson's victory in New Orleans forced an end to the conflict. Charles' father served in the military all three years of this conflict at the age of 52.

In the middle of this war, Mary Elizabeth, Charles' first daughter was born in 1814. Two years later a second son Nimrod was born on 7 July 1816. At the age of 26 Charles lived through an unparalleled phenomenon known as the "year without a summer." Due to an eruption of a volcano, Mt Tambora, in Indonesia in 1816, temperatures in the summer remained unusually cold across America and food production suffered. Conditions included average temperatures of 45 degrees Fahrenheit and a dry fog that would not go away with rain and hung in the air, reddening the sky. Americans tried moving to other parts of the country but were unable to escape the effects of the unusual weather patterns. Beadon's community, like many others, experienced a religious revival as people looked to faith for an explanation of the unusual weather phenomenon.

Two years after this event, a second daughter, Sarah was born on 25 June 1818. The following year brought the first major peacetime financial crisis in the U.S. After the war of 1812 and the economic bubble that followed, swelling crop yields in Europe caused imported food to be cheaper than home-grown food especially with an inflated currency. Many were forced off their farms and out of their homes. Debtor prisons were full of those unable to pay their bills.

Charles and his family seemed to weather this crisis and on 21 October 1820 another daughter, Rebecca was born. Just over three years later another son, William Franklin was born on 5 Apr 1824. Then somewhere in the following couple of years another son John was born to them. In 1828, their youngest daughter Catherine was born and then in 1830 during a period of time known as "The Great Awakening" in America, their youngest

son Isaac was born. This "Awakening" was a protestant revival movement prompted by deteriorating religious excitement and lack of faithful devotion, where numerous preachers were traveling the country and giving lectures to large assembled crowds to rekindle faith. This new-found religious fervor produced thousands of new members in existing churches and also formed the foundation of new denominations such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which some of his Children would later join.

Race relations were very touchy in Virginia at this time. In 1831 Nat Turner led a slave rebellion in Virginia that had a severe backlash with heavy consequences for the black community. White reaction was swift and harsh, and militias killed many innocent free blacks and black slaves as well as those directly involved in the rebellions. The Virginian legislature passed laws restricting the rights of free black members of the community: they were excluded from bearing arms, serving in the militia, gaining education, and assembling in groups.

Around this time, during the first half of the 19th century, tobacco prices declined and tobacco lands lost much of their fertility. Planters adopted mixed farming, with an emphasis on wheat and livestock, which required less labor. Railroads began to be built throughout Virginia hauling coal from the mines, as well as moving produce throughout the country.

The next decade was a period of conflict as the U.S. government fought with many Native American tribes ultimately forcibly removing them from the South and forcing them to reservations in the West. Around a third of the Cherokees, Muskogees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Seminoles that were forced to relocate died during the 1,200 mile-long winter march from Southeast Arkansas to Oklahoma. Those that survived what would become known as the "Trail of Tears" were forced to live on hostile reservations far from the land that had been their home for hundreds of years.

Communication also increased tremendously during this time period as hand written letters delivered by horseback gave way to postal systems using telegraph, railroads, and steam-powered ships to deliver communications.

Charles' older brother John died in 1840 at the age of 61. Then on 2 August 1841 his father died in Elkhorn, Grant, West Virginia at the age of 81. His mother died later that year on 4 October 1841 at the age of 78. The Last Will and Testament records that Charles was to receive \$100 at his father and mother's passing and their estate should be split between the four youngest sons. The following year, in 1842, Charles' sister Sarah died at the age of 50.

In the 1850's the underground railroad was working in full force to secretly transport escaped Southern slaves into free Northern states. At this same time, Uncle Tom's Cabin was released, causing a firestorm of controversy that would eventually escalate into war. In 1853, Charles' little sister Leah died at the age of 53.

4 years later a devastating economic recession known as the Panic of 1857 rocked the entire world as the boom of the railroad industry and the gold rush in the 1800s led to an inevitable bust. Mines dried up and overstretched railroad companies collapsed causing more than 5000 American businesses to fold and leading to the unemployment of thousands.

Around 1860, Charles' wife of 47 years, Catherine Halterman died at the age of 71. His son Nimrod also died this year at the age of 44. Then Charles passed away on 23 October 1891 at the age of 63. He was preceded in death by his parents, three of his siblings John, Sarah, and Leah, His wife Catherine and several of his children. He was survived by 4 of his siblings including George, Jacob, Henry and Isaac, and 4 of his children including Sarah, Rebecca, William, and Catherine and their families.

