Laurel Hill Burial Ground

Pinchot Family Plot

There are three generations of the Pinchot family buried in this burial ground

First generation: Constantien (1786-1830) and his wife Mary E. Pinchot (1775-1840) immigrated from Breteuil Sur-Noye, France, to the United States in 1816. Once established in Milford, PA, Constantien and his son Cyrill embarked on numerous economic ventures, including a general store, land speculation and lumbering.

Second generation: Constantien and Mary's son, Cyrill C.D. Pinchot (1797-1874), and his first wife, Sarah Dimmick (1803-1821), and his second wife, Eliza Cross (1816-1886), who was Sarah Dimmick's cousin. Cyrill, who prospered from the then common practice of clear-cutting the forests on newly purchased land, left his estate to Eliza who, according to her obituary, died after "a long-suffered illness coupled with a broken hip, the surgery (of) which she 'could not endure'."

Third generation: Cyrill H. Pinchot (1838-1860), youngest son of Cyrill and Eliza, died from consumption in 1860 after he moved to NYC. His brother John F. Pinchot (1833-1900), Cyrill and Eliza's second youngest child, remained in Milford and ran the family store, never married and died heirless.

In 1867, the Milford Cemetery Association purchased 16 acres of land for a new town cemetery on Route 209, just south of the borough, from Cyrill Pinchot's business partner, John H. Wallace. In 1906, James Pinchot purchased approximately four acres adjacent to the Milford Cemetery and began building a family mausoleum. In 1919, James Pinchot's sons, Gifford and Amos, sold three-and-a-half of the original four acres back to the Cemetery Association, retaining a little more than a half acre, which forms the Pinchot family plot. Subsequent generations of Pinchots, including James and Mary, who built Grey Towers in 1886, and their oldest son Gifford and his wife Cornelia, are buried in the family plot in the Milford Cemetery.

In 1963, Gifford Bryce Pinchot donated the Grey Towers estate—including the Laurel Hill Burial Grounds—to the USDA Forest Service, the agency founded by conservationist and former Pennsylvania Governor Gifford Pinchot.

Recent Maintenance & Restoration of Laurel Hill Burial Ground

Stewardship and resource protection are a primary focus of the mission of the US Forest Service at Grey Towers. Rehabilitation and maintenance of this burial ground began several years ago with extensive archeological studies and removal of the trees that were a hazard and were causing damage to the headstones.

In addition, invasive plants, shrubs and brush have been removed. The Forest Service has repaired the cemetery steps and stone walls and restored the original hearse drive around the perimeter of the cemetery.

The Pike County Historic Preservation Trust provided a sign for the burial ground. Eventual cleaning, repairing and re-setting of the head and foot stones, a costly process, is planned.

GREY TOWERS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MILFORD · PENNSYLVANIA

FOREST SERVICE US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NAMES AND DATES OF

The Pinchot Family

Buried in the Laurel Hill Burial Ground

Constantien Pinchot
1786-May 9, 1830

Mary E. Pinchot
1775-August 28, 1840

Cyrill C.D. Pinchot
1797-1874

Sarah Dimmick Pinchot
1803-April 12, 1821

Eliza Cross Pinchot
1816-September 15, 1886

Cyrill H. Pinchot
1838-June 15, 1860

John F. Pinchot
1833-1900