

## IN THE BEGINNING

Grey Towers was built in 1886 by James Pinchot, a successful businessman and philanthropist.

Born and raised in Milford, PA, James went to New York City to seek business opportunities, acquiring enough fortune to retire at age forty-four. Civic-minded and a supporter of the arts, James and his wife, Mary, connected themselves with many influential people, among them Richard Morris Hunt, a leading architect of the era. Hunt designed the summer home to utilize local materials and to reflect the French heritage of the Pinchot family, who first settled in Milford in 1818. For two decades James and Mary and their children enjoyed numerous summers at Grey Towers, entertaining guests with afternoon teas and dinner parties. It was at Grey Towers that James, disturbed by destructive logging practices then prevalent in the country, encouraged his eldest son, Gifford Pinchot, to consider a career in forestry.

## FORESTRY AND CONSERVATION

Heeding his father's advice and born with a love for nature, Gifford Pinchot went to Yale in 1885. Because forestry schools did not yet exist in the United States, he took what few related courses he could. After graduating in 1889, and already fluent in French, Gifford went abroad to study at the *École Nationale Forestière*, Nancy, France. A year later, excited by what he had learned and seen in Europe, he cut short his studies to confront the forest devastation then sweeping the country.

With his newfound knowledge and the support of his family and friends, Pinchot worked tirelessly to raise scientific forestry and natural resource conservation from a radical experiment to a nationwide movement. He became head of the Division of Forestry in 1898 and in 1905, under his good friend, President Theodore Roosevelt, was named Chief Forester of the newly created United States Forest Service, an organization guided by Pinchot's principle, "the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." His magnetic personality and leadership style ignited the new organization. During his tenure, national forests more than tripled in size to more than 170 million acres.

Roosevelt, with Pinchot as his strategist, considered conservation his greatest contribution to American domestic policy.

## POLITICS

In 1910, President William Taft began unraveling some of the Roosevelt-Pinchot conservation policies, and Pinchot became a vocal critic. The result: Taft fired Pinchot, who then came home to Grey Towers and launched his political career.

Failing in bids for the United States Senate, Pinchot was eventually elected governor of Pennsylvania in 1922. Widely regarded as one of Pennsylvania's most popular and effective governors, Pinchot served two terms, wiping out the state's \$30 million deficit, battling to regulate public utilities, securing relief for the unemployed, and paving rural roads to "get the farmer out of the mud."

Pinchot attributed much of his success to his wife, Cornelia Bryce Pinchot, daughter of journalist and politician, Lloyd Bryce, and great-granddaughter of inventor and philanthropist, Peter Cooper. The two met in 1912 during the Bull Moose campaign.

During the 1920's and 1930's, Cornelia ran unsuccessfully for Congress three times. Her campaigns focused on education and the labor rights of women and children. She was well known for being "equally at home on the picket line with striking workers as she was a gracious hostess at a formal reception."

### EVERYBODY KNOWS



**GIFFORD PINCHOT**  
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE  
**MADE A GOOD GOVERNOR**  
HELP HIM FINISH HIS WORK MAY 16, 1920  
PRIMARY ELECTION

### CORNELIA BRYCE PINCHOT

Will Really Represent the People of This District



Republican Candidate for Representative in Congress  
DEM AND PROGRESSIVE  
Primary Election April 24, 1928



## FAMILY NOTES

James Pinchot believed he had created no slums, fouled no rivers, and wasted no resources while obtaining his wealth. Widely respected, he helped push through the construction

of the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty and, with others, founded and financed the National Academy of Design and the American Museum of Natural History. With his sons and wife, Mary, he endowed the Yale School of Forestry and began at Milford the first forest experiment station in the nation to encourage reforestation of denuded lands. From 1901 to 1926, Yale held summer forestry camps for graduate students on his Grey Towers estate.



Mary Eno Pinchot married James in 1864. The daughter of Amos Eno, a real estate investor and one of New York City's wealthiest men, Mary was well-schooled in manners and the ways of the social elite. The Pinchot children

never strayed far from the influence of their parents; with travels abroad, private tutors and prominent family associations, each developed strong moral, intellectual and altruistic beliefs.



Antoinette, Gifford's younger sister, married a British diplomat and focused on social causes in Europe. During World War I, she organized and ran the American hospital in Ris Orange, France.



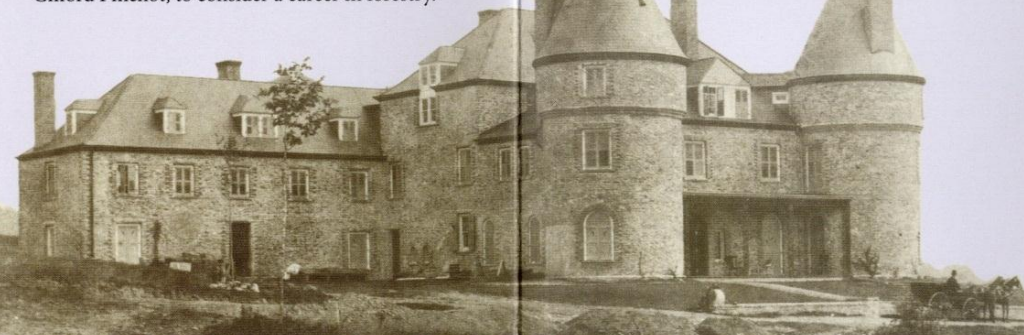
Amos, a lawyer and youngest of the three Pinchot children, served on the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, helped organize the Progressive Party, and was a co-founder of the American Civil Liberties Union.



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## GREY TOWERS TODAY

In 1963, Gifford Bryce Pinchot, the son of Gifford and Cornelia, donated Grey Towers and 102 acres to the USDA Forest Service, the federal agency founded by his father that now administers the site as an active conservation center.

On September 24, 1963, on the lawn of Grey Towers, President John F. Kennedy dedicated the site to the American public to further evolve and apply the conservation values and philosophies initially prescribed by Gifford Pinchot.

Today, with numerous partners and public support, the US Forest Service offers museum, public and education programs and manages a conservation leadership development program and conference center at Grey Towers. All initiatives strive to perpetuate the Pinchot conservation legacy and each year many thousands of visitors gain inspiration from the ambiance and the history of Grey Towers.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY

Efforts have been made to provide for your safety.

Stone walkways and stairways are historic and therefore possibly unsteady. Comfortable footwear is suggested. There is limited handicapped parking. Please take care during your visit and call ahead if you have concerns.

### TOURS, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Grey Towers is open daily Memorial Day through October and on limited days during other times of the year. Tours and a variety of other programs and events are offered throughout the season. Please call 570.296.9630 or visit [www.fs.fed.us/gt](http://www.fs.fed.us/gt) for more information about schedules and fees.

### CONFERENCE CENTER

Natural resource agencies, groups and organizations doing conservation work can use the Grey Towers Conference Center for workshops, conferences, seminars and programs that address the management of natural and cultural resources.

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