



Figure 61. (Above) During the years that the summer term of the Yale School of Forestry was held on the Grey Towers estate, the students resided in tents as is shown in this 1903 photograph of "the Camp." The one and one-half story frame building known as "the Clubhouse" can be seen at the end of "the Street." From the Gifford Pinchot Papers.

Figure 62. (Left) Students of the Yale Summer School photographed in front of Forester's Cottage on the Pinchot Estate.

THE YALE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

Through his early years of work in the Division of Forestry, Gifford Pinchot realized the urgent need for trained foresters to carry out the resource policies then being initiated. Because of the limited opportunity for American students to study forestry in their own country, Pinchot soon interested his parents in the idea of helping him to found a graduate school of forestry in association with his alma-mater, Yale University. In March 1900, Yale accepted the gift of a \$150,000 endowment from the Pinchot family.¹⁸ (This original endowment eventually was doubled by the financial contributions of various other members of the Pinchot and Eno families.) In accepting the gift, the University was obligated, for a period of twenty-one years, to maintain a summer school of forestry at the Pinchot's Grey Towers estate. James W. Pinchot placed a forest tract, located on the southern bounds of his land holdings, at the disposal of the school.

The Yale School of Forestry opened in the Fall of 1900, and summer sessions then followed on the estate. The program was originally designed as a six-week period of elementary instruction for those students interested in an introductory course in forestry. From 1904 through 1926, Grey Towers was the site of the annual twelve-week summer term of the professional training course leading to a Master's degree in forestry. Students were afforded the experience of learning through field work in the woodlands and forest plantations of the estate. This opportunity to supplement their academic education through on-site training proved to be invaluable to the young foresters, many of whom came from urban environments.¹⁹

Gifford's former classmate at Yale and his assistant in the Division of Forestry, Henry S. Graves, became the first director of the school. Pinchot was a member of the governing board and also served on the faculty of the forestry school from 1900 to 1903 as a special lecturer in forest policy. He then continued as a non-resident member of the faculty, giving annual lectures at New Haven and Milford until 1936. At that time, he reached mandatory retirement age and became a professor emeritus. So committed was he to the cause of the forestry school that Gifford Pinchot impetuously bequeathed all of his wealth, with the exception of a few small legacies to members of his family, to the institution. (This first intention was later revised.) In 1925, Yale University awarded him an honorary doctorate in appreciation of the outstanding contributions he had made in the field of forestry education.

James Pinchot took a strong paternalistic attitude toward fostering the success of the forestry school, which he regarded as a pet project during the later years of his life. In addition to the use of land on his estate, he generously provided for the construction of various buildings and facilities for summer instruction. The students' living quarters were provided by two

rows of tents that formed the camp's "street;" in addition, frame structures, such as the kitchen and the clubhouse, were built to serve the camp.²⁰ During the early years of the school, an outbuilding that was begun around 1890, probably to Richard Morris Hunt's design, served as a classroom facility and instructors' residence.²¹ Known then as "the school house" or "Foresters' Cottage," this building was located southwest of the main residence, near the southwest corner of the walled garden. (Around 1917, it was expanded to serve as the summer residence of Amos Pinchot and his family, who had inherited it in the division of his father's estate, and was called "the Garden Cottage.")

In July, 1904, James Pinchot contracted the construction of a multipurpose structure, on Broad Street in the village of Milford, which was to be known as Forester's Hall.²² C.C.D. Pinchot's former store was razed to clear a site for the new building, which adjoined, and stylistically matched, the 1880s post office building at the corner of Broad and Harford Streets. Designed in December 1903 by Hunt and Hunt (the successor firm of Richard M. Hunt, who died in 1895), the building's first storey was divided into commercial shops, while the upper storeys were used as a classroom facility for the forestry school, as well as a meeting place for fraternal organizations.

Beyond the financial expenditures that the elder Pinchot

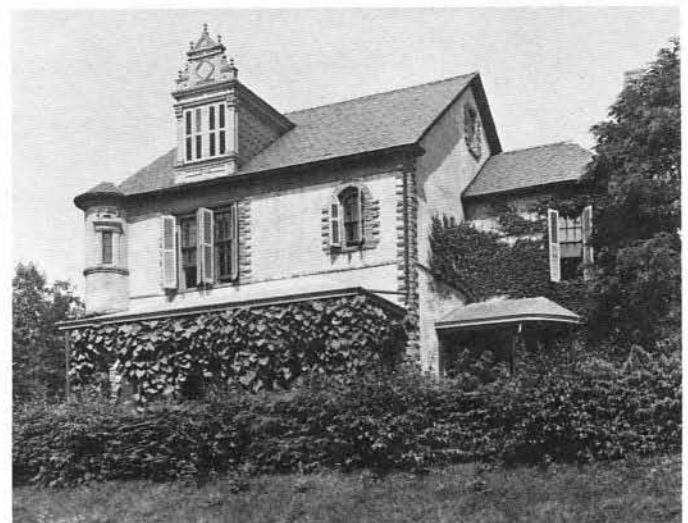


Figure 63. Known as Forester's Cottage or "the Schoolhouse" around the turn of the century, this building was used by the Yale School of Forestry during its early years. It later became the summer home of Amos Pinchot and his family when James Pinchot's estate was divided. From the Gifford Pinchot Papers.

made toward promoting the welfare of the school, an effort was made to establish amicable relations between the students and the family. In an early 1900s letter to her son, Mrs. Pinchot wrote that the couple was gradually getting acquainted with the fifty-six forestry students at Grey Towers, and she was planning to invite them to tea that week.²³ This custom was apparently maintained by the family through 1926, since Cornelia Pinchot similarly invited the foresters to the home that last year of the school's field course there.²⁴ The relationship was undoubtedly mutually beneficial, since the students performed important studies of the estate's forest tracts in their fieldwork on the site. As one example of this work, in 1906, students prepared a map of a tract of James Pinchot's land, which was to be used for study and planning purposes for the proposed cemetery by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.²⁵ There was also a considerable degree of tree planting carried out by the students. Pine and hardwood plantations at the "forest experiment station" site south of Milford are still detectable by their straight rows, and a plantation of white pines is to be found on the hill overlooking Grey Towers.

In a 1904 article about the Yale summer school, James Pinchot summarized the forestry activities at his Milford home, their importance to him, and his wishes for the future.

In the forest work at Grey Towers, the experiment station represents advanced study and research, while the students of the summer school and of the Yale Forest School stand for the beginning and the middle of a forester's training. It is to be hoped that Grey Towers may have in the future, through instruction and original investigation in the lines I have attempted to describe, a wide and continuing influence in all matters relating to forestry.²⁶



Figure 64. The old Milford Post Office Building, located on the corner of Broad and Harford Streets, was constructed in the 1880s. Adjoining to the right is Forester's Hall, constructed in 1903.

NOTES

1. "Work to be done by Lyman and George for winter of 1888 and spring of 1889," ten page memorandum in notebook entitled "Subscriptions to Pedestal for Statue of Liberty," GP Papers, Series III, cont. 39. Hereafter abbreviated: Memorandum: 1888, 1889.
2. Schedule of insured buildings, policy with Davis, Dorland, and Company, New York. GP Papers, Confidential File, cont. 3006, folder: Insurance—Milford.
3. Letter from James Pinchot to his wife, New York, February 21, 1886. GP Papers, Series III, cont. 53, folder 6.
4. Draft survey of tract done in December, 1920. GP Papers, Confidential File, cont. 3015.
5. "Grey Towers Garage Burns with 4 Cars," *Port Jervis Union*, October 22, 1937. Newspaper clippings of the fire and four excellent photos of the damage are found in the Cornelia Bryce Pinchot Papers, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, Series I, cont. 425.
6. See bill from Delano and Aldrich, 7/21/1939, in Milford bills, green, loose leaf notebook of expenditures for 1939. Cornelia Bryce Pinchot Papers, Series I, cont. 423.
7. Interview with Henry McCarty, October, 1924. GP Papers, Series XIII, cont. 2995.
8. Ibid. Also, Cole's name is inscribed on this building.
9. Ibid. For view of building, see snapshot numbered 23-1 in group of photographs taken in 1903 by unidentified Yale Forestry School student. GP Papers, Series XIII, cont. 2978, folder 1.
10. Interview with Mrs. Amos Pinchot, July 2, 1969, by B. C. Yates. USFS history files at Grey Towers.
11. *Washington Post*, February 7, 1908, p. 9.
12. Letter from GP to his mother, New York, April 27, 1886. GP Papers, Series III, cont. 53, folder 7.
13. See note 3.
14. Letter from Charles Killilea to James Pinchot, Milford, April 20, 1890. Amos Pinchot Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Series I, cont. 1, folder 1890.
15. Letter from Maitland Armstrong to JWP, April 21, 1890. Amos Pinchot Papers, Series I, cont. 1, folder 1890.
16. Interview with Henry McCarty, October 4, 1924. GP Papers, Series XIII, cont. 2995.
17. Letter from James W. Pinchot to Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., Virginia Beach, April 1, 1893. See also: Letter from JWP to FLO Sr., Biltmore, NC, March 28, 1894, and Letter from Gifford Pinchot to John C. Olmsted, New York, June 1, 1895. All letters in Olmsted Associates Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, cont. B216, file 3164. Note: There were no answers to these letters recorded in the files. Researched by William Tweed, History Section, USFS, August, 1977.
18. General information on the early history of the school and Gifford Pinchot's involvement was based on the following three sources: 1) Henry S. Graves, "Early Days with Gifford Pinchot," *Journal of Forestry* (August, 1965) 63: 585, 586; 2) George A. Garrett, "Gifford Pinchot and Forestry Education," *Journal of Forestry* (August, 1965) 63: 597-600; 3) McGeary, *GP: Forester, Politician*, p. 48.
19. For a statement upon the importance of the fieldwork at Grey Towers in the education of the forester, see: "Emmanuel Fritz: Teacher, Editor, and Forestry Consultant." An Interview conducted by Elwood R. Maunders and Amelia R. Fry (Santa Cruz and Berkeley, Ca.: Forest History Society and Regional Oral History Office of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 1972), pp. 20, 24.
20. A group of snapshots taken in 1903 by an unidentified student of the Yale Forestry School provides much information of the early years of the summer session at Grey Towers and the outbuildings that then existed on the site. All photos were numbered and brief identifications were pencilled on the back of each. GP Papers, Series 13, cont. 2978, folder 1.
21. Information on the building's date of original construction and major addition were taken from the October, 1924 interview with Henry McCarty in GP Papers, Series 13, cont. 2995. The predominance of its Renaissance detailing and its stylistic similarity to other structures designed at Grey Towers by Hunt would point to its design by the architect, though no documentation has yet been found to document this conclusion. When James Pinchot's estate was divided, "Parcel B," a twenty-one acre tract that included this building, was given to Amos Pinchot. For a draft of a survey of this tract done in December, 1920, see GP Papers, Confidential File, cont. 3015.
22. A copy of the contractual agreement made in July, 1904 between James W. Pinchot, owner, and E. S. Wolfe, builder, is among the files of the Pike County Historical Society. This twelve page document is a complete record of the building's specifications. The historical society also owns a stereopticon view of the west block of Broad Street before Foresters' Hall's construction (which shows C.C.D. Pinchot's store and the existing post office) as well as one of the building soon after its completion. Two preliminary sketches of Hunt and Hunt's floor plans for Foresters' Hall, which date to December, 1903, can be found in the Hunt collection at the American Institute of Architects' Library in Washington, Box 16 of the catalogued documents.
23. Letter from Mary Pinchot to GP, Grey Towers, July 27, no year. GP Papers, Series 3, cont. 72, folder 1.
24. Telegram from Mrs. Cornelia Pinchot to GP, August 20, 1926. GP Papers, Series 4, cont. 263. As a provision of the acceptance of the original 1900 endowment, Yale was obligated to carry on a summer school on the estate for a period of twenty-one years, which ended in 1926.
25. File memo, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., September 21, 1906. Olmsted Associates Papers, Manuscript Collection of the Library of Congress, cont. B216, file 3164. Researched by William Tweed, USFS, August, 1977.
26. James W. Pinchot, "The Yale Summer School of Forestry," *The World's Work* (October, 1904) 8:5392.