There are three generations of the Pinchot family buried in this cemetery

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 Cemetery—to the USDA Forest Service, the agency founded by conservationist and former Pennsylvania Governor Gifford Pinchot.