

CONTRIBUTIONS OF SENATOR GRUNDY
IN RESTORING AND PRESERVING PENNSYLVANIA LANDMARKS

The activities and interest of Senator Joseph R. Grundy in the restoring and preserving of historical landmarks in Pennsylvania forms a little known but important chapter in the life of one of Pennsylvania's most prominent citizens.

They have a significance doubly notable because of the modesty with which he has kept his own identity in the background.

Thanks to his zeal and encouragement, the Commonwealth now has title to a list of historical sites, open to the public and preserved for posterity, many of them rebuilt into fac similes of their original appearance. These memorialize events and characters of importance not only to Pennsylvania history but to the entire world.

He has been a silent partner in enterprises of this type throughout the State. In many cases, only a few individuals have known of his interest and active support in the advancement of specific projects of this nature.

The best known monument which the State owes to the vision and persistence of Senator Grundy is, fittingly enough, associated with the life of Pennsylvania's founder, William Penn. Tracing his ancestry, as Senator Grundy does, to an important founding family which came to America under Penn, his deeper interest in William Penn's life and works is easily understood.

"Pennsbury Manor", which ~~is~~ is Senator Grundy's individual contribution fully as much as any Commonwealth-developed enterprise may be said to be a one-man project, is virtually unique among American landmarks in that it has been restored, almost brick for brick and plank for plank, to the appearance it had ~~when William Penn first arrived in 1682~~ when William Penn first arrived in 1682, two and a half centuries ago.

There are some few structures in America which are in their original form, much modified by the patina and decay of many generations of time. There are others which have been rebuilt in the best imitation possible of their earlier appearance.

By a series of fortunate accidents, not the least of which was the alertness and vision of Senator Grundy, ^{at the psychological moment,} it has been Pennsylvania's achievement to restore the original country seat of William Penn, a few miles north of Bristol, into the most exact duplicate of the original, not only as pertains to the building itself, but the grounds, the plantings and the outbuildings.

Senator Grundy was the one who first brought to public attention this possibility, rising out of the fact that William Penn's letters are in existence, setting forth with great exactness his instructions for the original design, construction and beautification of the Pennsbury Manor.

Only a few miles away is another landmark which has been signalized in quite different fashion through the interest of Senator Grundy: the Maritime Academy, which is on the site of ^{the} first upper-tidewater settlement on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware.

This was the home of two of Penn's most active supporters, James Harrison and Phineas Pemberton, often called Penn's surveyor. They reached the spot in the winter of 1682 and set up what, with the Pennsbury Manor home of Penn himself, has aptly been called "the cradle of Pennsylvania."

It was through the activity of Senator Grundy that this sacred soil was dedicated to the commendable purpose of ~~training~~ training mercantile marine officers. Conspicuous shrine at the Academy is a small graveyard, possibly the oldest in Pennsylvania,

in while lie the remains of nearly all of the original ^{settlers} ~~colonists~~ ---
most of whom died within the first fifteen years.

Farther up the river, also in Bucks County, is a site with a different background --- the scene of Washington's Crossing. Here again two large areas of ground have been set aside by the Commonwealth, buildings restored, monuments erected, and perpetual maintenance undertaken --- nearly all as a result of the interest of Senator Grundy.

These are only a few of the many similar instances of his publicmindedness well worth the acknowledgement and acclaim of ^{all} ~~any~~ cultural bod^{ies} within the state.