

Arthur William Cutten
1870 – 1936

If you were to create a list of people who have contributed a great deal to Guelph's reputation as one of the best cities in Ontario, Arthur William Cutten's name would surely be there. Most Guelphites know the Cutten name because of the Cutten Club, which he founded in 1931, but only a few know the real story of this Guelph native.

Arthur William Cutten was born on July 6, 1870. He lived a normal life on a small farm with his parents, Annie MacFadden and Walter Hoyt Cutten, and his seven younger siblings. In his youth, Cutten attended the local public school, and then the Guelph Collegiate, during which time it is said that he enjoyed playing most sports.

Cutten left Guelph for Chicago at the age of 17, and quickly found a job working as a bookkeeper for a brokerage firm in Chicago. He worked there for fourteen years, during which time he wisely saved and invested his money in the wheat industry.

His investments produced excellent results because of the beginning of a boom in the wheat industry. He benefitted greatly from this event, but this was just the beginning of a pattern that repeated itself throughout his life. In 1906, Cutten bought a seat on the Chicago Board of Trade, and that same year he married his love, Maude Boomer. By the age of 36 Cutten was a millionaire and a well-respected person. He was given memberships to the most exclusive clubs and was invited to all social gatherings, but he and his wife preferred to spend their spare time together on their farm on the outskirts of Chicago.

Even though he was now wealthy beyond belief, Arthur Cutten never forgot his roots. He was responsible for the construction of a number of important structures around Guelph. Some of his contributions included funding for the Cutten Club Golf Course, the carillon and the organ in St. George's Church, and the erection of the iron fence around Woodlawn Cemetery. He donated money to many local charities and had plans to fund other developments, but these were never realized because of losses he suffered in the stock market crash in October of 1929.

Arthur Cutten died at the age of 66, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. By those who knew him during his life, Arthur William Cutten will always be remembered for his generosity and dedication.

Daniel J. Bough
May 1996