



## George W. Lutz - *Philanthropy*

George Washington Lutz was born in Wheeling on July 17, 1855, the son of Sebastian Lutz and Anna Trischler Lutz. He was educated at Saint Alphonsus School and completed his education by attending night classes at Frazier Business College. His first employment was at the Wheeling Tack Company; he later worked at the Armstrong planing mill. Mr. Lutz's future was established when he learned the plumbing and steam fitting trade. Following his apprenticeship, he went to work in the trade with the Trimble and Hornbrook Company.

Four years after going to work for Trimble and Hornbrook, Mr. Lutz became a partner in the company when he purchased the interest of Mr. Hornbrook. Eighteen years later, following the death of his partner Mr. Trimble, he changed the name of the company to Trimble & Lutz Supply Company. It became one of the largest industrial supply companies in the tri-state region. In addition to the success of his industrial supply business, he was one of the founders of Citizens Mutual Bank and Half Dollar Bank.

Mr. Lutz's civic-mindedness and love for Wheeling was memorialized and defined upon his death in a 1940 editorial in the Wheeling News-Register. "Mr. Lutz was numbered among that group of citizens who contributed so effectively and unstintingly to the economic and social welfare of the city from the late nineties to recent years." He was responsible for much of the urban beautification that was part of the history of Wheeling Island. Mr. Lutz also chaired the Landscape Commission of the W. E. Stone Fund, which continues to this day to provide for the floral ornamentation along National Road from Wheeling Hill through Fulton and Glenwood.

Known as the "father of the Market Auditorium," he was responsible for the concept and planning of the construction of the Auditorium. Following its completion, he served as president and director of the Market Auditorium Company. He was also directly involved with the civic groups responsible for the Mingo Indian statue that remains at the top of Wheeling Hill. Mr. Lutz was instrumental in securing funding for a state-of-the-art water filtration plant in Warwood as well as obtaining funding for the system of the ornamental street lights that illuminated Main and Market Streets in downtown Wheeling.

Mr. Lutz served as Chairman of the Wheeling Board of Trade and the West Virginia Association and served on the board of directors of the Associated Charities, National Old Trails Society, Wheeling Society, Wheeling Safety Council, and the Chamber of Commerce. He chaired the West Virginia State Fair Association and, when the interest in the state fair declined following World War I, he re-energized the organization and brought the State Fair back to its former pre-war stature during the 1920s.

In 1878, Mr. Lutz married Lugene E. Hornbrook, daughter of Thomas and Tryphena Hornbrook. Her family owned Hornbrook Park, which is now Wheeling Park. Mr. and Mrs. Lutz purchased land on the south end of Wheeling Island in 1887 and built their home at present-day 308 South Front Street where they lived from 1901 until 1937. Later in life, Mr. Lutz built a country estate near Warden and Waddle Run Roads. He resided there until his death in 1940 at the age of 84.

Mr. and Mrs. Lutz had no children. Upon his death, Mr. Lutz left his entire estate to his nieces and nephews. The legacy of his life's work is evident today. For example, a Lutz family member bequeathed money she received from Mr. Lutz to Oglebay Park, where it was used to build an addition to Glessner Auditorium at Wilson Lodge.