

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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## Medicine in Early Brighton (Part 2)

William C. Brown, born 1851 in New York, came to Brighton in 1880 at twenty-nine years of age. He was the nephew of Dr. William J. McHench and joined him in his medical practice. It is appropriate that Dr. Brown's office was on the second floor of the Pipp and Becker Hardware store (southeast corner W. Main and Hyne Street). Brown married Luise Becker, daughter of John Becker, owner of the store.

Dr. Brown was well loved and respected by the community. His obituary states, "He could often be seen in the center of a group of kids and doc was apparently as young as any of them".

During his twenty-three years in the area, he also assumed civic responsibilities. He was post master, a member of the Ore Creek Fire Department and several local organizations, including manager of the Brighton Baseball team. He died in 1919, after moving to Detroit several years earlier. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Other practitioners moved to Brighton in the early 20th century. Among them was Dr. Jacob Daniel Singer. Born in 1858 in Ohio, his early youth was spent in Pennsylvania, working in the mills and plants. A passion for music and art found him attending Baxter University in New York. He began studying medicine, while teaching music in Dakota Territory in 1883. In 1896, he graduated from the School of Medicine in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Singer arrived in Brighton in 1909. From his office at 131 W. Main, he became one of the town's most respected citizens. He, too, felt a responsibility to the community in which he lived and practiced. During WWI he served on the Volunteer Medical Corps. He was on the Brighton Board of Education in 1921 and was a member of several organizations, including Brighton Masonic Lodge #247. For a period of 16 years he was a camp physician at the Detroit Recreation Camp on Euler Road, west of Brighton. He continued practicing medicine up until a few

weeks before his death. His funeral in 1943 was conducted by the Lodge. He is interred in Fairview Cemetery.

In 1914, Dr. Horace Peter Mellus assumed the practice of Dr. M. H. Coan who'd practiced in Brighton for several years before moving back to Wyandotte. In February, 1931, Dr. Mellus opened Brighton's first hospital at 218 E. Grand River. Previously, he had an office and operating facilities in a house on E. North Street for several years. Before long, other area doctors saw their patients at Mellus Hospital.

Among these doctors were Duncan Cameron and Archibald McGregor. Dr. Cameron left to serve in WWII in 1942. After the war, he developed a practice in Detroit as a surgical specialist. Upon Mellus' death in 1939, McGregor managed the hospital. Dr. Mellus had become the first president of the Brighton Rotary Club. He is buried at Fairview Cemetery.

All three of these doctors had faithful patients secure in the quality of care they received. When Dr. Cameron left, he transferred his practice to Dr. Olin C. Wilkinson who arrived in Brighton in 1940. Dr. Cameron said, "You can have any of my patients you can keep."

*Compiled by Marieanna Bair from clippings and "From Settlement to City - Brighton, Michigan" by Carol McMacken. . Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.*



### In Memoriam

The BAHS would like to extend sympathies to the families of :

**Pat Fonseca of Arizona**

and

**Charles J. Brady**

Pat was a long time Brighton Area Historical Society member. Charles was also a member and a Brighton native.