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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN BRIGHTON — Part 1

The years 2018, 2019 and 2020 mark three centennial pillars of the Women's Suffrage movement in America. It's no small source of pride that in 1918, Michigan became one of four states that approved women's suffrage ahead of the national vote in 1919. New York had adopted women's suffrage in 1917.

In 1918, Michigan joined Oklahoma and South Dakota in also advancing women's suffrage. Here in Brighton, we know who the first two women to vote were because they were pretty involved in the voting process at the Old Town Hall (now known as CoBACH). They were Haidee F. Judson Brady, and Charlotte Mellus. They were among 250 women registered to vote. Both ladies served as election workers by assisting women voters on the second floor of the Old Town Hall.

As a result, they were Brighton's first women voters on March 10, 1919. And, both of them were real "go-getters".

Haidee F. Judson Brady—who happens to have been the grandmother of BAHS Board member Lynn Brady Strong, graduated from Brighton High School in 1910, and from Michigan Agricultural College (now MSU) in 1917; she also was a member of the first women's MAC tennis team, honored for this in 2002 when MSU awarded her a varsity letter. She was a teacher in Brighton and raised five children.

To be continued...

(Compiled and written by Sheryl James Vigmostad, BAHS Member. 810-227-7506)



Haidee F. Judson Brady

BAHS has not found a photo of Charlotte Mellus. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.