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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN BRIGHTON — Part 2

The second of the first two women to vote in Brighton was Charlotte Mellus, a nurse and wife of Dr. Horace P. Mellus, who in 1931 built Brighton's first hospital — today the home of the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce. As well-regarded as was Dr. Mellus, his wife enjoyed equal respect and affection.

Originally from Cass City, Michigan, Charlotte Mellus moved to Pontiac to work at the Eastern Michigan Asylum, earning her nursing certificate in December 1912. She helped her husband establish his medical practice in Brighton while also supporting many community and church activities: she also served as Rebekeh Lodge treasurer, chaperoned high school student programs and in 1921, helped run a summer camp for nearly 60 girls at Silver Lake.

It would be nice to report that Charlotte lived a long, full life. But that was not to be. In her era, now-eradicated diseases were ever-present menaces. Dr. Mellus fell ill with typhoid fever in 1924. As Charlotte nursed him, she contracted typhoid fever as well. She was hospitalized and died March 3, 1925 at just 35 years old. The *Brighton Argus* reported. "...Seldom has there come to this community a sorrow which has been felt so personally in the hearts and homes of all."



CHARLOTTE HAIGHT MELLUS

To be continued...

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

Both Haidee Judson Brady (who was featured in the Page 4 story last month) and Charlotte Haight Mellus were 2019 Honorees into the Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor.