

SNOWDEN MAY GET NEW TRIAL

Argument For New Trial To Be Heard in Towson Courthouse Next Monday

MAY GO HIGHER

Court of Appeals May Eventually Hold Fate Of Convicted Col- ored Man

That John Snowden, the Annapolis colored man convicted last week at Towson of the murder of Mrs. Lottie Brandon, did not have a fair trial and is not guilty of the foul crime of which he is charged is the well nigh universal opinion of all who followed the details of the trial of this most sensational murder case. The evidence upon which Snowden was convicted was not only circumstantial and flimsy, but showed the most glaring discrepancies, while there were a number of clues that in the minds of the laymen were never satisfactorily run down.

Brandon, it will be remembered, was a stenographer and typewriter at the Naval Experiment Station across the Severn river from the Naval Academy. According to his statement he returned home from work on the afternoon of August 8th and found his wife lying in a pool of blood, everything in disorder and the door of the refrigerator damaged. It appears that he called in the neighbors, but did not notify the police for sometime afterward. One of the clues that appears not to have been fully followed up was that given by Mrs. Brandon's sister, Mrs. Redmond.

It was Mrs. Redmond who said that a next door neighbor paid undue attention to the slain woman during husband's absence. Thomas King, an instructor at the Naval Academy, and his wife lived in the house adjoining the home of the Brandons. The detectives learned that Mr. King arrived in Annapolis on July 16th and leased the cottage. They further say that he frequented the Brandon house during the husband's absence and that he and his wife talked with Mrs. Brandon on the morning of her death.

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Young Dietz, a white ice boy, stated he went to the house on the day of the murder to deliver a 5-cent piece of ice and found the rear part of the house closed, blinds drawn and doors leading to yard locked. Two bits of testimony upon which the State laid so much stress have not appealed strongly to the lay mind. That one could see what was going on in a room across the street through a window that was heavily screened, does not appear convincing, nor does the finding of skin, (said to be that of a Negro) beneath the nails of the dead woman after the body has passed through the hands of two undertakers speak well for the efficiency of these exponents of the funeral directors' art.

That the ruling of the presiding judge did not strike the counsel for the defense as being fair is evidenced by the large number of exceptions noted by them. Upon these facts a motion for a new trial has been made, argument concerning which will be heard next Monday, and if not granted an appeal is to be taken to the State's highest court.
