

questions: When you washed the hands of the deceased, the body and hands, I would like you to describe the hands and say what you found, if anything, on the hands?

A. The hands were pretty dirty from the autopsy.

(The Court): That is what I want you to explain?

A. In holding an autopsy of course that is some blood and fluid that comes from the body and by laying on the morgue table I suppose, probably this blood and water had gotten on the hands and had stained them and that is what I mean when I washed the hands to take that fluid and blood and stuff off.

(The Court): That is all I want to know.

(Examination concluded.)

(Mr. Hartman): We will have to wait for the undertaker.

(Note): Trial suspended until the arrival of the undertaker from Washington.

WILLIAM H. SARDO, a witness of lawful age called on behalf of the State, after having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION.

Q. (By Mr. Green): Where do you live? A. Washington, D. C.

Q. What is your business? A. Undertaking business.

Q. When did you receive the body of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon? A. I think I have it right here (reaching in pocket for a paper): on August 8, 1917, I think that was on Thursday, I believe Wednesday or Thursday, August 8th.

Q. What day of the week did you receive the body? A. That was Thursday evening I believe between six and seven.

Q. Where did you get the body? A. From the W., B. & A. Station, the White House Station, 15th and H.

Q. How did you know the body would be there? A. I had a telephone from Mr. Brandon to meet the remains at the White House Station, 15th and H streets.

Q. Where did you take the body when you received it? A. I took her remains to my establishment, my assistant and myself.

Q. How long did it stay there? A. It stayed at my establishment from Thursday until Saturday; Mrs. Brandon's mother was very nervous and we didn't take the remains home until half an hour before the funeral services.

Q. Stayed in your establishment? A. Right in my chapel.

Q. Who had access to the body during that time? A. Myself.

Q. In your absence was your chapel locked up? A. Yes.

(Mr. Grason): He didn't say anything about a chapel, he said establishment.

(Mr. Green): He did.

(Mr. Grason): What did he say?

(Note): Stenographer reads the previous question and answer as follows: "Q. Stayed in your establishment? A. Right in my chapel."

Q. Where is your dwelling? A. We live right over the establishment.

Q. What did you do to the body? A. When we got the remains I presume Mr. Taylor at Annapolis didn't have time, was quite busy at the time—

(Objected to.)

Q. What did I do?

Q. Yes? A. I can tell you that we got the remains and they didn't suit me and we washed her face with chemical and put some cosmetics on to make her look better than she did and redress her and put her back in the casket.

Q. Did you notice her nails or hands? A. No, sir; because when we got Mrs. Brandon the hands were in this position (indicating).

(Mr. Brady): That position (indicating)?

(Witness): No, sir; did I say that position?

(Objected to.)

(Witness): Her hands were not that way, I didn't say that way; I know what I am speaking about; they were in this position (indicating); not this position where her fingers were out; I said Mrs. Brandon's fingers were turned in that way.

Q. (Mr. Green): Her fingers turned in that way? A. Yes, sir; just in her natural position; you don't put your hands out like that.

Q. Did you notice her fingernails? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you touch them? A. No, sir; if I had gotten the remains first—

(Objected to.)

Q. You didn't notice her fingernails and didn't touch them? A. No, sir.

Q. You say you carried the body to the house half an hour before the funeral? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who went with you? A. My two assistants and myself.

Q. Were you there all the time? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did anybody have access to that body, without your knowledge, in your establishment? A. No, sir.

Q. Were you present at the house all the time? A. Yes, sir; about five minutes before the services the minister arrived, five minutes after the hearse arrived at the house.

Q. Where was the body buried? A. Glenwood.

Q. Did you take the body up again? A. We buried her on Saturday; exhumed her on Tuesday about 2.30, and carried her to my establishment. She laid in the chapel until Tuesday night, where we were going to have the autopsy, and the Coroner notified me, and said going to have the autopsy at the Emergency Hospital, and my two assistants and myself put Mrs. Brandon's remains in my hearse and carried the body to the Emergency Hospital, where the autopsy was performed, and immediately after the autopsy returned the remains to my chapel where she laid in my chapel until Tuesday, when we buried her; at least we buried her on Wednesday.

Q. When you took the remains up on the following Tuesday in the afternoon, was the body in the same condition as when you buried it? A. Yes, sir.

CROSS-EXAMINATION.

(Mr. Brady): You say when you saw the body the first time you were not satisfied with it, and that you washed the face, and I supposed you tried to make it look neat and nice in appearance; was that the idea? A. Yes. I said I washed the face with chemicals and cosmetics and redressed her.

Q. Why did you do that? A. To make her more presentable.

Q. Any other place? A. No, sir.

Q. Washed her no other place? A. No, sir.

Q. Now, Mr. Sardo, do you mean to tell me, the only place you put those cosmetics were on the face? A. That is what I said.

Q. Why did you put them on her face? A. To make her look better than when I received her.