

doubt of his reaching an agreement. I did not see the record again until I reached home about September 16th, when it was returned by Mr. Williams for my action, no agreement having been reached.

8th. I was away from Court by reason of illness and in Atlantic City and New York City from July 5th to September 16th, 1918.

As witness my hand and seal this 23rd day  
of September, A. D. 1918.

(Seal)

FRANK I. DUNCAN. (Seal)

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## BILL OF EXCEPTIONS.

### TRAVERSER'S FIRST BILL OF EXCEPTIONS.

Mr. Green, on behalf of the State, made the opening statement to the jury, and after explaining the allegations in the indictment, said, in part, as follows:

The crime as we expect to show you, gentlemen of the jury, was a most heinous and diabolical one in its conception and its perpetration, was devoid of all decency and without the slightest recognition of the laws of man or God. The State expects to show you gentlemen that on the 16th day of October, 1916, a young couple, who were then living in Washington, were married. The following first of January 1917, they came to the City of Annapolis to take up their abode. They rented a house on what is known as Second Street, at No. 29. Second Street, gentlemen of the jury, is a street that leads from West Street to Murray Hill. West Street is the main artery leading into the City of Annapolis from the outlying country, and runs as far as what is known as St. Anne's Church Circle, Annapolis. Annapolis being laid out with a number of circles and streets radiating from these circles as it were the spokes of a cart wheel. This Second Street is located probably 800 yards from Church Circle and possibly an equal distance from the City limits. Just before you reach Second Street on West Street is what is known as Acton Lane, possibly in the rear of Second Street 200 yards. That street does not back the houses

Acton Lane, nor do the houses back on Acton Lane with the houses on Second street; there is an intervening space. As I say, the State expects to show you that on the first day of January, 1917, Valentine N. Brandon and Lottie May Brandon, who was a Miss Haislup of Washington took up their abode on Second Street in the City of Annapolis in what was designated as No. 29, renting and furnishing a modest little flat. They lived there from January until the 8th day of August, 1917, happy in the thought that each loved and was loved. As the winter months passed and the spring began to open, their happiness was turned into joy that the young wife was about to reach that highest place of womanhood and become a mother. On the 8th day of August, which was Wednesday, Mr. Brandon, who was employed in the United States Experiment Station, across from the U. S. Naval Academy, left his happy little home about 8 o'clock in the morning, as was his custom. They arose about 6:45, and 7:45 ate their breakfast, which the wife prepared; fixed his lunch, followed him to the door and kissed him good-bye. He then proceeded down the street in the usual way to the boat that carried him across the river to the Experiment Station, where he was employed, reaching there about 8:40 o'clock. He remained there during the entire day until half-past four o'clock; the boat then left there to bring him home. He hurried home, as was his custom; he opened his front door, called for his wife with a usual call and a whistle and received no answer; went as far as the second room, and there found his wife lying upon the bed as he thought perhaps in a faint. He immediately became alarmed and rushed to a neighbor's house for assistance, calling a doctor and asking the neighbors to come in and render whatever assistance was necessary to his wife. When they reached the house in a few minutes they found the sad spectacle of the young wife, prospective mother, dead. Dead for hours, with her throat terribly lacerated, showing the marks of the brute's finger-nails on her throat with a terrible wound in the front of her head lying upon her side, where the blood had flowed from that wound and her life had ebbed away across the side of her forehead and under her head through the mattress to the floor below. Her clothes were up and her limbs were exposed, the skin was torn from her knees, her ankles were lacerated and she had been dead for hours. We expect to show you gentlemen of the jury by a concatenation of events and chain of facts that will leave no doubt in your mind that the perpetrator of this horrible crime was the prisoner at the bar, John Snowden, now being

tried before you. We expect to show you that on the morning of Wednesday, the 8th day of August, this man Snowden, who had been employed as a driver for Parlett Company, incorporated, of the City of Annapolis did not go to work on that day, that he was out gambling, drinking and carousing all the night before. That he arose that morning about seven o'clock, ate his breakfast and about quarter of eleven left his home where he was living in consort with a woman by the name of Edna Wallace, who had been separated from her husband. This Edna Wallace has been the wash woman for Mrs. Brandon, whose house, although the yards were not connected, they were almost immediately in the rear of the Snowden-Wallace home on Acton Lane. That he left his home quarter of eleven o'clock with the intention of going to Martin's bar, which was on West Street, but instead of going in his usual way down to Acton Lane on West Street to Martin's bar, he went up through the back part of his lot up what is known as Shaw Street, which connects Acton Lane in the rear of Second Street; at a quarter of eleven he left his home he saw nobody and nobody saw him. We met him next in Martin's bar at five minutes of twelve o'clock spending a dollar bill. As we expect to show you, that dollar bill was the dollar bill that Brandon's wife gave him on that morning to go to the bake shop to procure bread and milk for their breakfast; when he reached the bake shop the baker could not change the dollar bill and he brought it back and gave it to his wife. We expect to show you that Snowden did not have a dollar bill when he left his home; that there is no accounting for his time between quarter of eleven and five minutes of twelve, when he was found in this bar spending this dollar bill. That about in the neighborhood of half-past ten o'clock, gentlemen of the jury, we expect to show you that Mrs. Brandon was alive and well and talked and conversed with a number of her neighbors. At half-past eleven, about half-past eleven o'clock, the neighbor who lives across the street from the Brandon's home heard a disturbance in the front room of the Brandon home; she called to her sister and asked her what she thought that disturbance was; she saw a chair thrown by an open window; things quieted down, and this girl who was not satisfied with what she had heard, sat at her window and watched, and in fifteen or twenty minutes the State expects to show you, she saw this man John Snowden come from the front door of that house. If we show you these things with those circumstances and with those facts, we don't think there can be the slightest doubt in the minds of any one of you gen-

tle men who committed this dastardly act. We expect to show you that he grabbed that woman from the rear, choked her into insensibility, threw her upon that bed and then ravished her, and that then with the feeling that a dead woman tells no tales, hit her in the head and left her there for dead.

If we show you these things, gentlemen of the jury, if we show you these facts and those circumstances we shall unhesitatingly ask at your hands, in the name of the peace and good order of society, in the name of morality and decency, and proper respect for the public administration of justice, "guilty of murder in the first degree."

To which statement counsel for traverser objected and noted an exception.

To which ruling of the Court the traverser by his counsel excepted and prays the Court to sign and seal this his First Bill of Exceptions, which is accordingly done this— day of April, 1918.

(Exception refused.)

FRANK I. DUNCAN.

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#### TRAVERSER'S SECOND BILL OF EXCEPTIONS.

After the occurrence of the matters set out in the first bill of exceptions, all of which is hereby made a part hereof, as fully as if the same were herein repeated at large.

VALENTINE N. BRANDON, a witness called on behalf on the State and after having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

#### DIRECT EXAMINATION.

Q. (By Mr. Green): Where are you living now, Mr. Brandon? A. Washington, D. C., 914 Sixth street.

Q. How old are you? A. 21.

Q. When were you married? A. October 16th, 1916.