

YOUNG WIFE FOUND MURDERED IN HOME

**Mrs. Valentine Brandon Slain At
Annapolis Five Hours Before
Crime Became Known.**

HUSBAND REPORTS DISCOVERY

**Woman's Skull Fractured And Evi-
dences Of Strangulation Seen —
Baltimore Detectives Called In
To Investigate.**

Annapolis, Md., Aug. 8.—A tragedy, unparalleled in the criminal annals of Annapolis, was committed here some time today.

Valentine Brandon, a stenographer and typewriter employed at the Naval Experiment Station, across the Severn river from the Naval Academy, returned to his home on Second street, in the western section of the city, this afternoon, at the end of his day's work, and found his wife, Mrs. Lottie Brandon, a corpse.

Mrs. Brandon had been in delicate health for several months and was soon to become a mother, and her husband, according to his statements, thought she had been seized with a fainting spell. He called in several neighbors, and it was then that it was discovered that she was dead.

Woman's Skull Fractured.

An investigation revealed the fact that she had been struck on the head with some blunt instrument and her skull fractured. Finger prints on the neck also showed she had been strangled.

Dr. William S. Welch, city health officer, who examined the body, said Mrs. Brandon had been dead five hours or more.

The woman was found on the bed with her head in a pool of blood. Her blood was spattered on the bed clothing and on the floor, and there were other evidences of disorder about the bedroom and kitchen. Everything was turned topsy-turvy and the door of the refrigerator showed evidence of damage.

Crime Shrouded In Mystery.

The crime is shrouded in mystery. The family of Thomas King, an instructor at the Naval Academy, who lives next door to the Brandon residence, heard no outcries, according to statements made tonight by Mrs. King. Nor did anyone else in the neighborhood hear any commotion, according to all information that has been gathered.

State's Attorney Nicholas H. Green and Sheriff John R. Sullivan immediately held an investigation. Baltimore detectives were sent for and the affair will be sifted to the bottom.

Brandon is 22 years old and his wife was 20 years.

Neighbors say that Brandon and his wife appeared to be a very congenial couple. Brandon is the son of Mrs. Martha Brandon, 718 Sixth street northeast, Washington. The mother came to Annapolis immediately when friends of the son advised her at his request of the murder.