

# BRANDON MURDER CASE STILL CLOTHED IN DEEPEST MYSTERY

**Vigilance of Detectives and Other Police Authorities Has So Far Been Fruitless of Producing Any Tangible Evidence As to Murderer--Sleuths Busy Running Down All Reports.**

## FUNERAL OF VICTIM TOMORROW

**Body Now At Husband's Former Home In Washington-- Theory of Former Sweetheart, Or Negro In Crime Is Scouted Here--Case Has Completely Baffled Everyone.**

Although out of town detectives, Sheriff Sullivan and his force of deputies, State's Attorney Nicholas H. Green, and the city police officials have been diligent in scouring the city and running down every report that might furnish a clue to the culprit who committed the horrible murder on Wednesday, when Mrs. Lottie Halslup Brandon, wife of Mr. Valentine Brandon, an employee of the Naval Experiment Station, was found slain in her home on Second street, the tragedy is still surrounded in the deepest mystery, and from present indications it is doubtful if over the guilty party will be apprehended.

The authorities have laid plans to sift the matter to the bottom, but in view of the maze of reports that are in circulation about the city, it will require a dozen or more sleuths to fathom the situation. The tragedy, committed apparently in the broad light of day, is the most horrifying and cold blooded in the history of the city, and many of the citizens of the town declined to discuss the affair at all.

A more pathetic side of the case is furnished by the fact that Mrs. Brandon, the victim of the tragedy, was soon to become a mother. Her body was prepared for burial at the undertaking establishment of James B. Taylor and Sons, and was shipped to Washington yesterday afternoon, and the funeral, it is stated, will take place from the former home of the husband at 914 Sixth street, Northeast, tomorrow. The husband accompanied the remains to Washington, but returned to Annapolis last night in company with his brother, Lorenzo Brandon, and spent the night at the Maryland Hotel. Mr. Brandon left for Washington on a noon car today, and will attend the funeral tomorrow.

In the meantime, the police officials and detectives have been unable to gather any tangible clue as to the party who committed the murder. The Baltimore and Washington papers this morning carried stories tending to implicate a stranger, said to be a young man of Washington and an old sweetheart of Mrs. Brandon's, but little credence is given to such reports here.

It is admitted by persons who knew Mrs. Brandon quite well, that she had related to them that she had an old sweetheart who was jealous of her attentions to Mr. Brandon, who is more of a youth, as he has only recently attained his majority, and her subsequent marriage to him. It is further said that Mrs. Brandon always kept a picture of this man in her home,

rounding the tragedy, the more perplexing it becomes. That the woman was dealt a death blow in the forehead with an instrument about the size of a hammer, appears to be certain, but a careful search about the house, and in the vicinity has failed to reveal the weapon that was used by the murderer in his dastardly act. Nor are there any blood stains or any other indications of the crime about the kitchen floor, although the woman must have put up a hard fight with her assailant, judging by the bruises and abrasions about her body. This, therefore, leads to the general belief that the fiendish brute dragged the woman to the bed and there completed his murderous act by choking her into unconsciousness and dealing the blow in the head that caused brain hemorrhage.

Brandon, the husband of the murdered woman, was about the city today attending to certain business affairs. He was in company of his brother. He appears to be greatly depressed over the horrible tragedy. Asked whether he intended to remain in Annapolis and continue his work at the Naval Experiment Station, he replied in the negative, stating that he expects to seek a position in one of the government departments in Washington.

All Annapolis is discussing the tragedy and theorizing as to the probable murderer, but it is a knotty problem that presents nothing more than theorizing.

### HOW TO ADDRESS MAIL TO SOLDIERS IN FRANCE.

**U. S. Embassy in London Swamped With Letters Because of Misunderstanding.**

The American embassy in London has informed the State and War Departments that it is being greatly inconvenienced by persons in the United States who send mail intended for members of the American expeditionary forces in care of the embassy.

The correct form of address, as announced by the War and Post Office Departments, is name of addressee, official designation of soldier's unit, and finally the words "American Expeditionary Forces." The location for station of a military unit, if known to the sender, should not be included in the address.

### Domestic Postage Rates.

Domestic rate of postage apply to letters, postcards and printed matter originating in the United States or any of its possessions for transmission to the United States expeditionary forces in Europe, announces the Post Office Department. The soldiers may send letters home subject to the

It is admitted by persons who knew Mrs. Brandon quite well, that she had related to them that she had an old sweetheart who was jealous of her attentions to Mr. Brandon, who is more of a youth, as he has only recently attained his majority, and her subsequent marriage to him. It is further said that Mrs. Brandon always kept a picture of this man in her home, though her husband had no knowledge of it. A thorough search of the house, however, has failed to reveal the alleged photograph, and furthermore, Brandon asserts that the relations between himself and his wife had been of the most congenial nature ever since their marriage last October. The records show that they were married in Baltimore in that month. Discussing this phase of the case today, Mr. Brandon stated that he had never heard of his wife's alleged fondness for another man, nor did he place any faith in the reports at all. Another report that has been spread broadcast recently is that a man who generally wore a pink silk shirt had been seated in the living room of the Brandon home on several occasions prior to the tragedy. Who this party is, no one seems to know but the police officials have been endeavoring to solve the point, as well as the multitude of other rumors that have been brought to them. Very little importance, however, attaches to the sweetheart theory.

Detectives Schanberger, Pohler and Kratz, of the Baltimore City Headquarters, are in the city again today with the hope that they will be able to gather some tangible evidence, but apparently they are as much at sea as when they were first called in to investigate the case. Neighbors living in the vicinity of the Brandon home have been further quizzed, and every report is being run down in the minutest detail. But the situation is as much of a mystery as it was yesterday.

Another theory that has been advanced by a number of persons is that the crime is the act of a negro, but very little attention is given this in official quarters, it is said. The more one thinks of the circumstances sur-

rounding the address.  
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The name and address of the sender may be in the upper left-hand corner. Postmasters will forward such mail to New York. Mail intended for soldiers should not be sent to the embassy at London. Cable messages to soldiers should be addressed "Amexforce, London," with the soldier's name and official designation of his unit. Cable messages for members of the United States naval forces abroad are addressed similarly with the code address "Unavforce, London."

## DEATH CLAIMS

### MRS. PAMELA USHER

**Mother of Rear Admiral Usher Was  
Ninety-Four Years Old  
This Morn.**

Mrs. Pamela Woolverton Usher, mother of Rear Admiral Nathaniel E. Usher, commandant of the New York navy yard, died Tuesday night at the commandant's quarters in Brooklyn, N. Y. Mrs. Usher was the widow of Nathaniel Usher of Vincennes, Ind. She would have been ninety-four years old this month and her death was due to the infirmities of age. She is survived by two sons, Admiral Usher and Edwin McNamee Usher of Vincennes. The funeral was held yesterday. Burial was at Vincennes.

### Civil Service Exam.

An open competitive examination under civil service rules will be held Sept. 1, for the position of chief clerk at Annapolis. The examination will begin at 9 a. m. Sept. 1. Applicants are required to submit blank forms for the examination and fill out questionnaires before the examination.