

# DETECTIVES WORKING ON CLUE OF NEGRO IN BRANDON MURDER

Reported Today That Colored Man, Acting Nervous and Excitedly, Sought Loan Of Money From a White Man Whom He Knew--Sleuths Engaged In Investigation Regardless Of Other Theories

## SAID HE NEEDED FUNDS AT ONCE

Tragedy Is As Deeply Clothed In Mystery As Ever Before Unless The Story Of The Colored Man Develops Some Tangible Evidence--Funeral Of Unfortunate Victim In Washington Today.

Regardless of the belief prevailing almost generally that a negro had nothing whatever to do with the baffling Brandon murder mystery of Wednesday last, a tip was furnished the detectives and police officials this afternoon that a certain colored man, well known in this city, might have some connection with the affair.

It was stated that the negro, whose name is withheld for obvious purposes, approached a well-known gentleman of the city and asked for a loan of \$10. The negro, it is stated, appeared to be in an intoxicated condition, and also exhibited signs of nervousness and excitement. The party from whom the negro asked the loan, refused it. It has since been learned that the negro has not reported at the place of his regular employment for the last four days.

The detectives have, therefore, discarded all other theories for the time being, and are this afternoon endeavoring to locate the colored man and find some account of his movements during the last few days.

With the body of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon, wife of Valentine N. Brandon, a stenographer employed at the Naval Experiment Station here, victim of the horrible tragedy that was committed at her home on Second street, in the west end of the city some time Wednesday, laid beneath the sod in Washington this noon, the corps of Baltimore city detectives and city and county police officials continued their investigations with the hope that they will be able to uncover some clue leading to the apprehension and conviction of the party who committed the horrible affair.

But the sleuths and everyone else about the city are apparently just as much at sea as to the identity of the guilty party as they were at 8 o'clock Wednesday afternoon when the tragedy was first discovered and news of it spread like wildfire throughout the town.

After a day of diligent investigations in course of which they ran down every report or rumor that might have some possible bearing on the case, detectives Krutz and Pohler,

man's forehead was inflicted, and which undoubtedly caused her death, after she had been apparently choked into unconsciousness. Certain persons have advanced a theory that the woman committed suicide, but it would appear that such a belief could be easily dismissed, when the injuries and numerous bruises that were found on her body, indicating that she had made a valiant struggle for her life, are taken in consideration.

Last night Mr. Thomas A. King, a clerk employed at the Naval Academy, and his wife, who only recently moved next door to the Brandon home, were submitted to an extensive examination at the hands of the County authorities and detectives, in the office of Sheriff John R. Sullivan at the Court House. Mr. and Mrs. King have been credited with various statements in connection with the affair, tending to show that someone must have entered the Brandon home after the departure of Mr. Brandon for his work on Wednesday, and committed the crime.

Mrs. King, whose story differs from that of her husband, has persisted in her initial statement that she talked to the murdered woman from 8 o'clock and for some minutes thereafter. She further said that she could not be positive whether the husband was seated in the rear room with his wife or not, as the shades were partly drawn and the interior of the house was darkened. This statement has aroused the suspicion of the investigators, who have the statement of young Brandon that he left the house a few minutes past eight o'clock.

On the left of the home of the Brandon's is the residence of Rev. E. S. Williams, colored, pastor of the Asbury Methodist Church. He said he was in his house the entire morning after 8 o'clock and most of the afternoon. He vehemently stated that he heard no outcry in the house adjoining and that he heard no commotion of any kind. Had there been a terrible struggle, as reported, he said, he would certainly have heard it, for he can hear the Brandon's conversation while they are at their home. "I am positive," he said, "that there was not the least sign of a scuffle in the house next door on the day in question."

## ANNAPOLIS SOLDIERS CAVORT ON DIAMOND

Teams of Company M. and Machine Gun Company Engage in Ball Game for Mutual Benefit

Nearly everybody in the city was tagged for the baseball game between the men of Company M. and the Machine Gun Company, the city units of

After a day of diligent investigations in course of which they ran down every report or rumor that might have some possible bearing on the case, detectives Kratz and Pohler, of Baltimore city, and other police officials of the city and county were active throughout the night in following up every report that was brought to their attention. It is stated today, however, that the sleuths are just as far from forming a solution of the crime, as they were when the first circumstantial details were brought before them. In other words, the tragedy is clothed in the deepest mystery, and in the minds of many persons about the city, it is doubtful whether it will ever be solved, as far as tracing the guilty party. It is a perplexing case to say the least, and the more one thinks or endeavors to make deductions in an effort to unravel it, the more complex the situation becomes.

As stated in last night's Capital, little attention is paid to reports published in some of the newspapers, tending to implicate an old sweetheart of the dead woman in the crime, is discredited. Nor is much weight given the theory advanced in some quarters that she was attacked and slain by a negro. Such theories are possible, of course, but in the criminal annals of the city, there has never been a crime of such horrifying circumstances, and there has been quite a few tragedies of a remarkable nature committed here in the past score or more of years.

The authorities have been endeavoring to gather some tangible evidence pertaining to the "man in a pink shirt," who is alleged to have been seen sitting at the living room window of the Brandon home on several occasions prior to the murder, but without successful result. Nor have they been able to find any trace of the instrument with which it is supposed that the blow on the wo-

Game for Mutual Benefit

Nearly everybody in the city was tagged for the baseball game between the men of Company M, and the Machine Gun Company, the city units of the First Regiment Maryland National Guard, which is being played on the grounds at St. John's College this afternoon. The game was arranged as a benefit affair, that is, to raise funds to cover incidental expenses of the two companies.

Members of the companies have been busy for the last several days selling the little round red tags, representing tickets for the game. No fixed price was placed on the tags. In other words the purchaser could give the small sum of a nickel, or as much as \$5 or more, if he so desired, and some large contributions were made. All Annapolis is imbued with the spirit of patriotism at the present time, and out of the spirit of their good will toward the soldier lads there was probably not a single soul who refused to purchase one of the red tags.

### Attended State Board Suffrage Meeting

The State Board of the Woman Suffrage League of Maryland met at headquarters, 705 Cathedral street, Baltimore, Friday the 10th of August for its monthly routine of business.

Mrs. A. C. Hall and Mrs. Robt. Moss, the Anne Arundel Co. representatives of the Board were in attendance, and made reports of the branch of work to which they are assigned.

### Attending University Summer Session

Prof. Sydney S. Hoody is in New York City attending the closing weeks of the Columbia University Summer Session.

Colonial Monday—George Roben in a seri-comic photodrama "The Roadside Impresario"; also Billy West in extremely funny two-reel comedy.