

SNOWDEN TRIAL BEGUN

Negro Accused Of Slaying White Woman In Annapolis.

HUSBAND TELLS OF THE CRIME

Woman Neighbor Of Mrs. Valentine N. Brandon Also Describes Conditions Day Of Killing.

Valentine N. Brandon, husband of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon, who was found murdered August 8 last at her home at Annapolis, and Mrs. T. A. King, a neighbor, testified yesterday in the Circuit Court at Towson, where John Snowden, a colored ice-wagon driver, is being tried for causing the death of Mrs. Brandon.

Mr. Brandon told in detail of his movements during the day of the murder, beginning with his receiving a dollar bill from his wife and going to the store for some articles and returning with the money, as the storekeeper could not make the change. He said he later left for his place of employment at the United States Experimental Station and left there at 4.30 o'clock in the afternoon for his home.

On entering the house, he said, he called to his wife and not getting a reply went to her room and found her lying on the bed. He touched her on the shoulder in an effort to arouse her, but not being able to do so, went out to call a physician and summon assistance. He said he had seen the body later and there were bruises on the neck.

Mrs. King said she had talked to Mrs. Brandon after Mr. Brandon had left for work. Photographs of the Brandon home were identified by Mrs. King. A number of photographs of Mrs. Brandon, taken after her death, were identified by Mr. Brandon, but were withheld from evidence, the State saying that it would produce testimony later leading up to their introduction.

It was 1 o'clock in the afternoon when the jury was selected, the difficulty seeming to hinge on opposition to capital punishment, which led Judge Duncan to give an explanation. The opening statement was made by State's Attorney Green, of Annapolis, who, with State's Attorney Hartman, of Baltimore county, are prosecuting Snowden.

Mr. Green asked for a verdict of murder in the first degree and described in detail the finding of the body of Mrs. Brandon, who had been dead for hours. He said that the skin was torn from her knees, her throat was cut and bruised, there was a wound on the front of the head and blood from the wound had gone through the mattress on the bed to the floor.