

SNOWDEN PAYS PENALTY

Negro Murderer Of Mrs. Brandon
Hanged In Annapolis Jail Yard.

DECLARES INNOCENCE TO END

Threats Of Trouble Cause Thorough
Policing Of City By Soldiers And
Baltimore Patrolmen.

[From a Staff Correspondent.]

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 28.—John R. Haslup, of Washington, father of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon, who was murdered in her home in Annapolis, August 7, 1917, saw John Snowden, the murderer, swung into eternity on a scaffold in the jail yard here, at 6.55 o'clock this morning. All night Mr. Haslup paced the corridors of the jail waiting for the hour when the negro brute who outraged and slew his daughter should expiate one of the most heinous crimes in the history of Anne Arundel county.

"The law has taken its course," said Mr. Haslup after the negro was swung through the death trap, "and now I can rest a bit easier. Snowden was given every opportunity to prove his innocence and Governor Harrington afforded his counsel every opportunity to produce any evidence in the man's favor, but this was impossible. The finger of suspicion was directed at my son-in-law, Val Brandon, who is now in France, but there never was a particle of evidence to connect his name with the crime. Snowden alone was responsible for the killing of my daughter."

Mr. Haslup returned to his home in Washington tonight. Few of the throng which crowded the jail yard knew that he was a witness to the hanging. The vigilance demanded by Governor Harrington was somewhat relaxed today, but detachments of the Second Maryland Infantry are on duty at the Annapolis Armory and there is every indication that the military and headquarters detectives from Baltimore will be kept on special work here until Monday. Snowden's funeral will take place from a negro church on Sunday, and it is understood that the colored race will turn out in large numbers. The colored people here have been told by their ministers and others to conduct themselves in a law-abiding manner, but the police officials have decided to take no risk of an outbreak.

Despite the fact that many threats have been made against Governor Harrington, he was determined not to interfere with the execution of Snowden. The executive mansion is under constant guard and the Governor himself is absolutely fearless. On all sides the Governor's fearlessness has been a source of satisfaction to the people. All persons who called to see him in Snowden's behalf and who had anything reasonable to say were accorded every consideration.

Maintained Innocence To Last.

The hanging of Snowden went off with clock-like precision. The negro's last words were "I am innocent!" Snowden was unable to write a statement, but he outlined what he would like the public to know to Georgia Boston, colored, who was one of the religious singers who spent many hours in front of the condemned man's cell. Snowden, it is said, signed his name to the statement after it was written by the Boston woman.

"God knows I have told the truth. After I am hanged I want the attorneys to continue to search for the murderer of that lady, for I am not guilty of the crime." These declarations included in the statement. Snowden thanked all the jail officers, his attorneys and everyone who interested themselves in his behalf. A praying and singing band visited Snowden in his cell an hour before the time set for the execution. Snowden joined in the singing and when the death watch told him that the time had come, the negro said that "he was ready."

A final prayer was offered by the Rev. B. S. Holt and at 6.50 the death march from the third floor began. Deputy Sheriffs Grafton, Boone and W. D. K. Lee marched beside the condemned man and the Rev. Mr. Holt was close by. By this time the jail yard was packed. Soldiers with fixed bayonets and a score of Baltimore policemen kept the throng in order that was surging almost under the gallows. Sheriff Joseph H. Bellis was told that everything was ready and he signaled the deputies to advance with their prisoner.

The crescent of a pale, declining moon showing just above the cross of a church steeple, greeted the uplifted eyes of those who saw Snowden advance to the gallows' steps. Up the steps he went without aid, and as he mounted the scaffold he was taken in hand by the deputies and placed on the trap. In voices that could be heard half a block away, the minister, female singers and Snowden were singing. The words came clear upon the crisp morning air and not a word was uttered by the throng. There was no demonstration.

Neck Broken By Drop.

The 'noose' was adjusted, the black cap fastened over the negro's head and at the last glimpse of his face he was singing. A few seconds later a hand was raised and Sheriff Bellis sprung the trap. Snowden dropped four feet. There was but little struggle. Twenty-five seconds later Dr. John J. Murphy, of Emergency Hospital, pronounced the man dead. Several women, with escorts, gained admission through the main gate of the jail yard and saw the negro swinging from the scaffold.

Strangulation and a broken neck were caused by the drop. Snowden weighed 190 pounds, and before he went to the death cell he made inquiry about the clothing. A new blue suit and black shoes were given him. Half an hour after the trap was sprung Snowden's body rested in a polished oak coffin. His name was engraved in the silver plate. The body was taken to the home of a relative.

For 48 hours this city has been policed in metropolitan style. A number of ugly rumors have sprung up in different sections of town and precaution is being taken to prevent an outbreak. It is reported that pistols have been sold to both white and colored persons and that threats have been made. It was through the work of the Second Maryland Infantry and the 50 Baltimore policemen, under the command of Marshal Carter, that disorder was prevented last night.

The town is "dry," and not a drunken man was seen on the streets, it is said. Negroes who came from Baltimore were watched to see if they brought whisky. The enlisted men of the Second Infantry, with fixed bayonets, patrolled the immediate neighborhood of the jail all night. Major Charles K. Duce was in command of the infantrymen, and the machine gun company was commanded by First Lieutenants Robert Garrett and Howard S. Thompson.

Marshal Carter, after making an inspection of the policed districts, told Governor Harrington that no trouble was anticipated. The Marshal issued instructions to clear all street corners and at midnight the streets were without pedestrians. The Marshal returned to Baltimore today.