

FORMER LOVER SOUGHT IN BRANDON MURDER

Detectives Working On Theory That He May Know Some- thing Of Crime.

HUSBAND'S SHIRT STAINED

Sheriff Sullivan Takes Brandon To Washington To Recover Clothes Worn Wednesday And Which Were Sent Him By His Mother.

[From a Staff Correspondent.]
Annapolis, Md., Aug. 9.—Working on the theory that an erstwhile sweetheart might have weighty knowledge of the circumstances which caused the death of Mrs. Lottie May Haslop Brandon, wife of Valentine N. Brandon, an employe at the Government Experimental Station, who was found dead yesterday by her husband. Headquarters Detectives Herman Pohler and John H. Kratz went to Baltimore tonight to consult Marshal of Police Carter regarding the arrest of a former suitor of the young woman.

Another theory of the police is that the woman was attacked by a negro and that she was criminally assaulted. Baltimore physicians have been called into the case in an effort to determine this point.

Another bit of information the detec-

tives and Sheriff John H. Sullivan, who with his deputies and agents of the Government are working on the case, have, is the fact that Valentine Brandon's mother, Mrs. Martha Brandon, 914 Sixth street, Washington, who came here on a telephone message from her son, sent to Washington this morning a suitcase containing clothing belonging to young Brandon. Among the clothing is a shirt which he wore when he was quizzed for more than five hours in the Courthouse last night. Red spots were found on the shirt by State's Attorney Green, Sheriff Sullivan and the detectives.

Robbery Apparently Not Motive

It is reported that Mrs. Brandon usually carried her money in her stocking. When the body was found one stocking was off and the other down below the knee. It is not known that she had any money in her possession at the time of the murder.

All evidence goes to show that robbery was not the motive for the crime. A diamond ring on Mrs. Brandon's left hand and a lavalere, valued at \$100, on a dressing table, had not been disturbed.

Body Of Woman Sent To Mother.

This afternoon the body of Mrs. Brandon was shipped to the home of her mother, Mrs. Randall Haslop, 2329 Virginia avenue, Northwest, Washington.

Sheriff Sullivan accompanied Brandon to Washington tonight to recover the clothing sent to his home by his mother. The stains on the shirt, Brandon told the detectives, came from red ink that he used at the Government station. It was stated by the detectives that the young husband, who was soon to be a father, was not taken to the capital as a prisoner.

Brandon, a slender young man, weighing about 128 pounds, stated that he left his wife at 8 o'clock Wednesday morning. He said he kissed and embraced her and then went to the Maryland avenue pier, where he boarded a launch with a number of other employes of the experimental station.

He said he arrived at the station at 8.45 and immediately reported for work. He said he did not return home for lunch, eating two sandwiches and several peaches his wife had put up for him. He, with several others, he said, then went swimming off the Government pier. His family life, he said, had always been serene and he never had any quarrels with his wife.

Former Suitor Kept In Mind.

Two neighbors of Mrs. Brandon told the detectives that, while she was apparently deeply in love with her husband, she frequently mentioned a young Washingtonian to whom she was engaged for three years before her marriage to Brandon. Mrs. Brandon stated that she had in her possession a picture of her former suitor, which she had kept hidden from her husband.

Her husband, she is quoted as saying, did not know she had the picture or that she had been engaged to marry the Washington man. Mrs. Brandon did not show the picture to her confidante, but promised to do so. Yesterday afternoon Detectives Pohler and Kratz, with the Anne Arundel county authorities, searched the cottage for the picture.

Told Women Of Old Affair.

One of Mrs. Brandon's confidantes was Mrs. C. A. Friemel. Mrs. Friemel said yesterday that Mrs. Brandon frequently spoke about her former suitor, stating that they were engaged for three years, and that she had his picture hidden in her home where her husband could not find it. She told the same story to Mrs. C. A. King, whose husband is also employed in the Government service and who lives next door to Mrs. Brandon. On the other side of Brandon's cottage lives a negro, the Rev. E. S. Williams.

Questioned by the detectives, the minister stated that he had not heard any outcry yesterday, and that he had no suspicion that anything was wrong in the Brandon home. Mrs. King also told the detectives she had heard no disturbance.

Physicians Sure Of Murder.

Physicians Sure Of Murder.

The people here hold two theories. Some suspect that the woman was murdered by a negro who gained entrance into the house and hid in the basement until Mr. Brandon left. Others believe that she was seized with a fainting spell and in falling struck her head, which caused the bruises and cuts.

Dr. J. C. Joyce, who, with Dr. W. H. Hopkins, performed the autopsy, stated to the detectives that he was certain that the woman had been murdered, being struck with a heavy blunt instrument, probably a hammer. Her death, he said, was due to strangulation and a brain hemorrhage caused by a blow on the forehead. The skull was not crushed or fractured.

Detectives Pohler and Kratz and Sheriff Sullivan are of the opinion that the woman was in the kitchen of her home when she was attacked. The door of the refrigerator was broken off. Mr. Brandon stated that when he left home the door of the refrigerator was intact. The finger prints about the neck, the detectives say, indicate that the woman was seized from behind.

Think Murder Occurred in Kitchen

The detectives are confident the woman was murdered. They admit they have a puzzling case. They have their suspicion, and the investigation they make in Baltimore this morning is expected to settle one theory.

Physicians who were first called stated the woman must have been carried or dragged to the bedroom. The house where the Brandons live is a four-room cottage. Brandon told the detectives that on Tuesday night he and his wife slept in the front room, ordinarily called the parlor. The bed clothing on the bed in the middle room, on which Brandon found his wife, had not been disturbed.

Brandon and his wife were married last October in Baltimore by an Episcopal minister. They eloped from Washington. It is understood that neither Brandon nor his wife have seen her parents since their marriage, having become estranged because of the wedding. Recently the murdered woman had urged her husband to leave Annapolis to return to Washington. It is stated that Brandon had practically made arrangements to leave the Government service, but he was waiting until their child was born.

Coroner William S. Welch, health officer of Annapolis, will hold an inquest Friday night.

C. L. G.

SLAIN WOMAN IN CITY FRIDAY

Mrs. Brandon Visited Her Sister, Mrs. Nettie Redmond.

One week ago today Mrs. Brandon, the woman found murdered in Annapolis Wednesday night, accompanied by her brother and sister, both under 15 years old, came to this city to pay a visit to their sister, Mrs. Nettie Redmond, 1608 Moreland avenue. Although Mrs. Brandon was found dead Wednesday afternoon, it was not until yesterday afternoon that Mrs. Redmond was informed of the tragedy. She did not see the morning paper, and was shocked when she received a telegram from Mr. Brandon telling her to come to Annapolis "at once."

A few minutes after she got the message a neighbor met Mrs. Redmond and expressed her sympathy. Then the sister was shown a newspaper account of the murder. An hour later Mr. and Mrs. Redmond left for Annapolis. Mrs. Redmond, according to friends, could advance no theory as to the cause for the murder except robbery. When in this city Mrs. Brandon appeared to be in a jovial mood.

Friends here scout the idea that the murder was due to jealousy.

"I know of no reason in the world why anyone would attack and kill my sister," Mrs. Redmond told a friend here before leaving for Annapolis. "As far as I knew she had no fear of anyone and her domestic relations were apparently happy."

The two children live with their mother in Washington. They had been visiting the Brandons in Annapolis and before they returned to Washington Mrs. Brandon arranged the trip for them to this city.