

NEGRO IN BRANDON CASE HELD ON HIS OWN STORY

John Snowden Formally Charged With Murder Of Woman After Severe Grilling.

POLICE EXPECT CONFESSION

Prisoner Admits He Was At House
In Annapolis On Day Crime Was
Committed, But Declares That
He Is Innocent.

NEW CLUES IN AUTOPSY.

A dispatch from THE SUN'S Washington Bureau says that new evidence which may help solve the mystery of the murder of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon was found last night in the autopsy held there on the ex-humed body.

"We believe the autopsy revealed some things which will aid the Maryland authorities," said Dr. W. P. Carr, deputy coroner, who, with Dr. J. C. Joyce and Dr. Walter Hopkins, of Baltimore, performed the autopsy. "However, we were requested by State's Attorney Nicholas Green not to make public our findings and can give out nothing."

Dr. Joyce and Dr. Hopkins left after the autopsy with Sheriff John R. Sullivan, who said they were going direct to Annapolis.

John Snowden, the negro who was arrested in Annapolis on Monday on suspicion of being the man who killed Mrs. Lottie May Brandon in that city a week ago today, was locked up at the Central Police Station at 6 o'clock last night on the charge of murder.

The arrest was made by Deputy Marshal House and Detectives Pohler, Kratz and Dougherty. This action was taken by order of Marshal Carter, who said that the negro had made so many conflicting and incriminating statements that he could no longer doubt his guilt.

Among other things, Snowden admitted that he had been at the Brandon home the morning of the murder, thus corroborating the statement of the two negro women at Annapolis whose testimony led to his arrest.

Expects Full Confession.

The Marshal said that Snowden had not confessed the crime, that, in fact, he had denied all participation in it, but that he had ventured so perilously near a complete confession that the final admission of guilt on his part is expected at almost any minute.

The Marshal said that he was not free to say much about the case, except to declare his conviction that the search for the murderer was practically over. The Marshal, in making this statement, said now that a solution has in his opinion practically been reached, he wished to compliment the men whom he had assigned to the case.

"When we get a chance to unravel the skeins of this case before the public, people will understand what excellent work these men have done. They had an unusual case, one that was baffling in many particulars, but they worked it up so well, picked up so many seemingly minor details which turned out afterward to be all-important, that they have, I feel confident, finished the work in a way the best detectives in this country might well envy."

Negroes Furnished Clue.

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The Marshal said that while the arrest of Snowden came as the result of a tip given by Mrs. J. Spencer Murray, of Annapolis, there were circumstances even after the detectives had this information, that offered unusual obstacles.

The information given the police by Mrs. Murray was that a negress in her employ, Margaret Queen, had been told by her two daughters, Ruth Green and Mary Perkins, that they had seen Snowden leave the Brandon home about 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning, the day of the murder. The women were afterward questioned by the police, and admitted that what had been told Mrs. Murray was true.

The testimony of these two women became the entering wedge which, the police say, helped to break down the mystery surrounding the case. For more than 10 hours yesterday Marshal Carter, Deputy Marshal House and a number of detectives had Snowden on the grill. They kept harping upon the testimony of the women—kept insisting to Snowden that he had been at the house on the morning of the murder.

Stuck To Denials Seven Hours.

For nearly seven hours yesterday Snowden persistently denied that he had been at the house, or that he knew anything about the murder except what he had heard in a roundabout way from people in Annapolis. At first he seemed to be bordering on a breakdown. He stammered his answers, his eyes showed his fear and his attitude denoted a feeling of absolute terror. This fear was accentuated later when he was taken to the Bertillon bureau in the Courthouse to be photographed and measured. Afterward he was taken back to the Marshal's office and quizzed again. He seemed to recover from his fright and began to spar for time and show more cunning in his answers. He was, for a time, cool and persistent in sticking to the statements that he had first made that he had not been to the house.

Then, about 2.15 o'clock yesterday afternoon, the break in his story came and question after question was fired at him. Then, it is said, he admitted that he had been in the neighborhood of the Brandon home on Wednesday morning; that he had overslept that morning, and had not gone to work. He said that about 10.45 o'clock he left home to go to the saloon of Charles Martin, Second and West streets, a few minutes' walk from his home. He admitted that he did not get to the saloon until 12 o'clock.

Admitted Going To The House.

It was then that the detectives wanted to know what he had done in the meantime. Bit by bit, they forced him to admit that he was at the house itself. The negro insisted that he did not enter and became as one at bay. He refused, for a time, to give any definite explanation as to what he was doing at the house. It is understood that afterwards he declared he saw somebody running from the direction of the house, but he could not give any clue as to the identity of the person.

When Snowden began to shift in this way the detectives began pounding him with questions. They asked him what caused the scratches on his face and arms. Snowden said that he did not know how they had come there.

By degrees Snowden again began to lose his self-possession. He refused to answer questions, or when he did, made statements that conflicted with those made by witnesses at Annapolis. This continued until about 6 o'clock, when Marshal Carter ordered that he be taken to the station.

The negro gave his age as 25 years. It is the opinion of the detectives that robbery was the motive of the crime.

The case has been worked by the Baltimore detectives assisted by the Annapolis authorities. There were others who would have helped, others who believed that their skill in criminology would be more penetrating than that of men who have been detectives for years. But the methods proposed by some of these criminologists did not appeal to the Baltimore detectives and were ignored.

DOUBT SNOWDEN'S GUILT

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DOUBT SNOWDEN'S GUILT

Many Annapolis People Still Think Mrs. Brandon Was Killed By Jealous Woman.

Annapolis, Md., Aug. 14.—Detectives Dougherty, Kratz and Pohler, who have been here attempting to solve the mystery surrounding the death of Mrs. Lottie May Haislup Brandon, wife of "Val" Brandon, a Government employe, who was found dead in her home last Wednesday, said tonight that they would not

[Continued on Page 5.]

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Continued from Page 14.]

say positively that John Snowden, the negro accused of the murder, is guilty.

While there are circumstances indicating the negro knows more about the crime than he has told, the detectives, who are investigating the case under the direction of State's Attorney Nicholas H. Green and Mayor James F. Strange, said they had nothing definite which would permit them to make such a positive statement. The detectives made it plain that "the woman in the case" had not been eliminated.

State's Attorney Green, it is understood, is of the opinion that Mrs. Brandon was murdered by a man of slender build. Sheriff John Sullivan said he believed she had been killed by a jealous wife.

There were many theories advanced which led the detectives on a merry chase. The jealous wife, the negro ice-man, the huckster, the negroes of the neighborhood and many other theories were all put forward, but were abandoned by most people, when Mrs. J. Spencer Murray walked into the office of the Rev. John Ridout and said that she knew who killed Mrs. Brandon. She said her negro cook had a sister who saw Snowden come from the Brandon home about noon on the day the woman was murdered. The detectives immediately abandoned all other theories, interviewed the cook and Snowden's arrest followed.

Snowden works for Parlett & Parlett, a firm which delivers ice in the neighborhood of the Brandon home. He told the detectives here that he awoke late last Wednesday and on that account did not go to work. He said he left his room shortly before 11, walked to a saloon in the neighborhood, met several negroes with whom he had several drinks, then went home and slept until late at night. "I never was in the Brandon home," said Snowden.

Detective Pohler said that it took but five minutes to walk from the negro's home to the saloon, and as Snowden did not reach there until 12.45 P. M., the intervening time would have to be accounted for.

Mary Perkins, colored, a daughter of Mrs. Murray's servant, said she was sitting on her porch, directly opposite the Brandon cottage, and saw Snowden leave the front door and go up the street to the saloon.

Detective Kratz said that John Martin, who runs the saloon, had on Wednesday in his cash register a torn dollar bill. Martin, however, was not able to say whether it was given to him by Snowden. Snowden said he gave 30 cents in nickels to the bartender when he bought drinks. The detectives say they have broken down this statement.

The detectives are still investigating various other theories, for Annapolis people have much doubt as to whether Snowden is guilty. It is the general opinion here that Mrs. Brandon was killed by a woman in a jealous rage. In discussing the case tonight, State's Attorney Green declared that, in his opinion, Snowden was guilty, unless the chain of circumstantial evidence which has been wound about him is broken.

Coroner William S. Welch will hold an inquest tomorrow night and Snowden will be brought here to appear before the coroner's jury. The police fear that the negro may be taken from them and lynched, if he makes a confession. Jerry L. Smith, a local attorney, has been engaged to defend Snowden. C. L. G.