



Bio & Character Sketch of Ollie Watson

Age in April, 1923: 22 Age at Death: 29

Age when picture was taken: (est) 22

Character Sketch

Not much is known about Ollie Watson. He was born on January 10, 1901 in or near Columbia, MO. The next record available is a marriage certificate, dated August 22, 1918 when Ollie is married to Jessie Jennings from Sedalia, Missouri. The wedding took place in St. John Church in Columbia, MO on July 30, 1918 when Watson was just 17 ½ years old. We also know – according to the 1920 US Census – that, like James Scott, Ollie Watson was listed as being “Mulatto,” or a light-skinned Black man. Combining the skin color, similar mustache, and likely similar size of Ollie Watson and James Scott, you can begin to understand how Regina Almstedt may have confused the two men.

Ollie Watson’s criminal record should probably speak for itself. He raped both Ernestine Huggard and Regina Almstedt. The first was a young black girl and the second was a young white girl.

We know that Watson was a taxi driver and that he had a cab stand outside George Scott’s Restaurant (called “Ruffin’s Restaurant” in the script to avoid confusion with James Scott, to whom George Scott was not related). We also know that Watson wore a Charlie Chaplin mustache for a period of time, and that he shaved it off almost immediately after raping Regina, probably because he heard the police were using a “Charlie Chaplin Mustache” description to hunt down Regina’s rapist.

When Ollie Watson was finally convicted for raping the young black girl, Ernestine Huggard, he all but disappears into the prison system until February 28, 1930 when he dies from Tuberculosis at the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City, MO.



Summary Justice Partners, llc

SIDES

A car idles on a dusty road on the outskirts of Columbia, Missouri. OLLIE WATSON is at the wheel and JADIE SCOTT sits nervously behind him in the back seat.

JADIE

We gonna do this? What if they scream?

OLLIE WATSON

Out here Jadie? Who you think gonna hear 'em?

JADIE

I dunno, maybe someone be around here.

OLLIE WATSON

No one out here. That why they need a ride to school.

JADIE

I dunno if I can do this Ollie. I never been wit a girl before.

OLLIE WATSON

You be fine Jadie. Jus' relax. Since me and Jessie parted ways, I been tomcattin' the girls. Jus' follow my lead, ok?

In the distance we see two young high school girls walking toward the car. ERNESTINE HUGGARD and VIOLA FORBIS approach the passenger windows.

HUGGARD

You gonna give us a ride to school?

OLLIE WATSON

That what we hear for darling. Better get in or you gonna be late.

The girls get into the passenger side of the front and back of the car

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The girls get into the passenger side of the front and back of the car. Forbis looks at Scott meekly as Watson gives Huggard a slow look over.

OLLIE WATSON (cont'd)

Mmmm, Mmmm. You got you a fine brown frame!

Huggard immediately tenses as Watson grabs her leg. She reaches for the door handle but Watson grabs her arm and casts a broad, ominously cruel smile.

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James and Watson are together in the same cell. James leans back against the bars of the jail cell while Watson lies on his cot. James stares at Watson with a look of disdain.

OLLIE WATSON

Who you lookin' at?

JAMES

I know you hurt that Huggard girl. Everyone knows it. You do this thing they accusin' me of? You rape that white girl too?

OLLIE WATSON

So what if I did? Watson springs from his cot, landing inches from James.

Tension crackles between them like static electricity.

OLLIE WATSON

You the one they want for that girl, not me! You the one with the mustache!

SIDES

JAMES

You had a mustache just like it! I seen you before! And look at those scratches on your neck! The white girl did that with her umbrella, didn't she!

James is now standing chest-to-chest with Watson.

JAMES (cont'd)

You raped both those little girls! Why? They were just young, innocent girls.

OLLIE WATSON (grinning)

Wrong place at the right time guess.

(pauses)

But that white girl saw you, remember? Not me! Guess YOU gonna have to pay the fare for her.

Watson pokes James' chest.

OLLIE WATSON (cont'd)

Not me!

James pushes Watson away.

JAMES

Mr. Jailer! Mr. Jailer! I need to see Mr. Anderson.