

**From: "Remember When - - - Collins & Collins Twp. 1848 – 1976
by Verlie Huggins"
From the Collins newspaper: Nov 16, 1911**

FATAL FIRE

"The tragic death of Ole Washington, the only colored man that ever lived in Collins, has evoked the heartfelt regret of all our people

He had been living by himself about 2 miles south of Collins cemetery in a house owned by Dr. Knepper. From indications, it is believed that Oley had thrown gasoline on the stove by mistake. An explosion took place, the house was completely destroyed. He had walked to the creek bank at Wes McQuiston's about a half mile and from a place he could not be seen, called as loud as he could. Wes' son came in answer. Oley asked for a sheet to cover him, which was given and he was taken to the house. Oley's words to Dr. Richardson were: "Put me to sleep; I'm dying." Anesthetics were administered and he died shortly afterwards. His condition was ghastly.

The funeral was in the Christian Church. Interment was at the Evergreen cemetery. Pall Bearers were Harvey Westcott, Oliver Shearer, John Thompson, Ray Carver, Earl Kinding and Ralph McCord."