

# Modelling Discrimination, Job Competition and Race: Locomotive Firemen, and the Railroad Industry 1880–1950 and Technological Advance

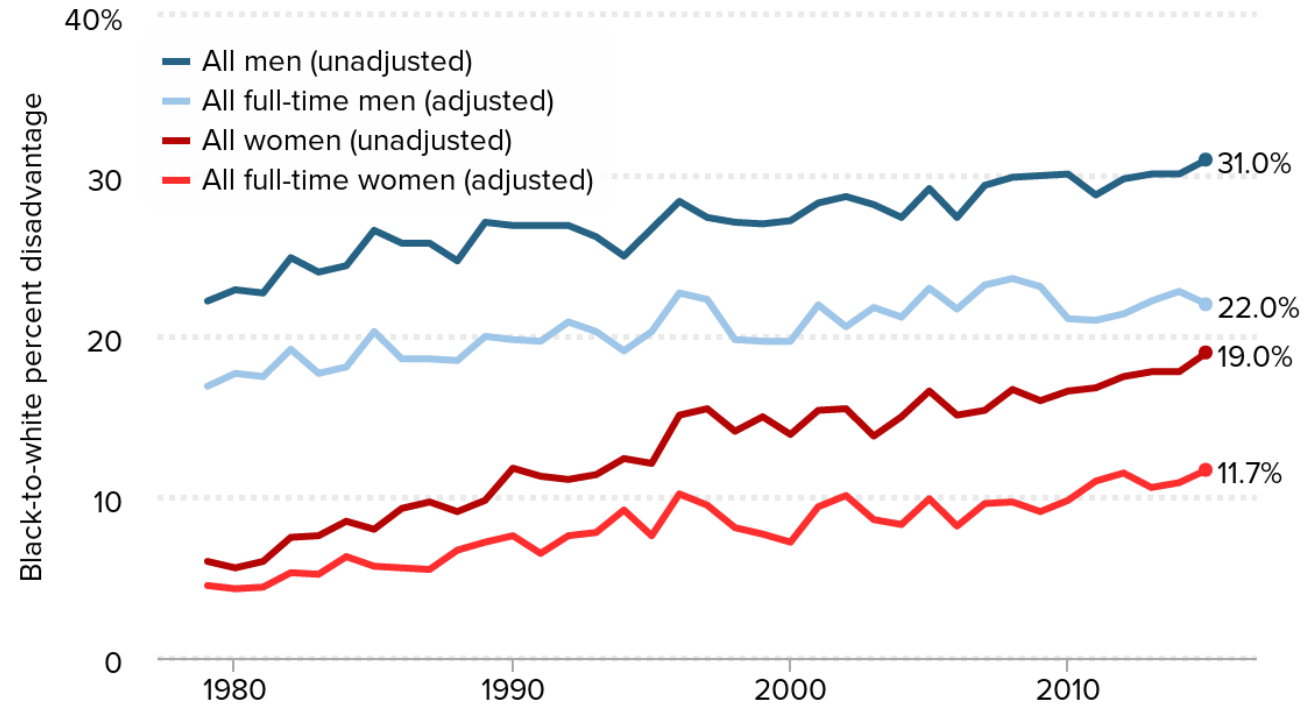
William E. Spriggs

Department of Economics, Howard University

And

Chief Economist, AFL-CIO

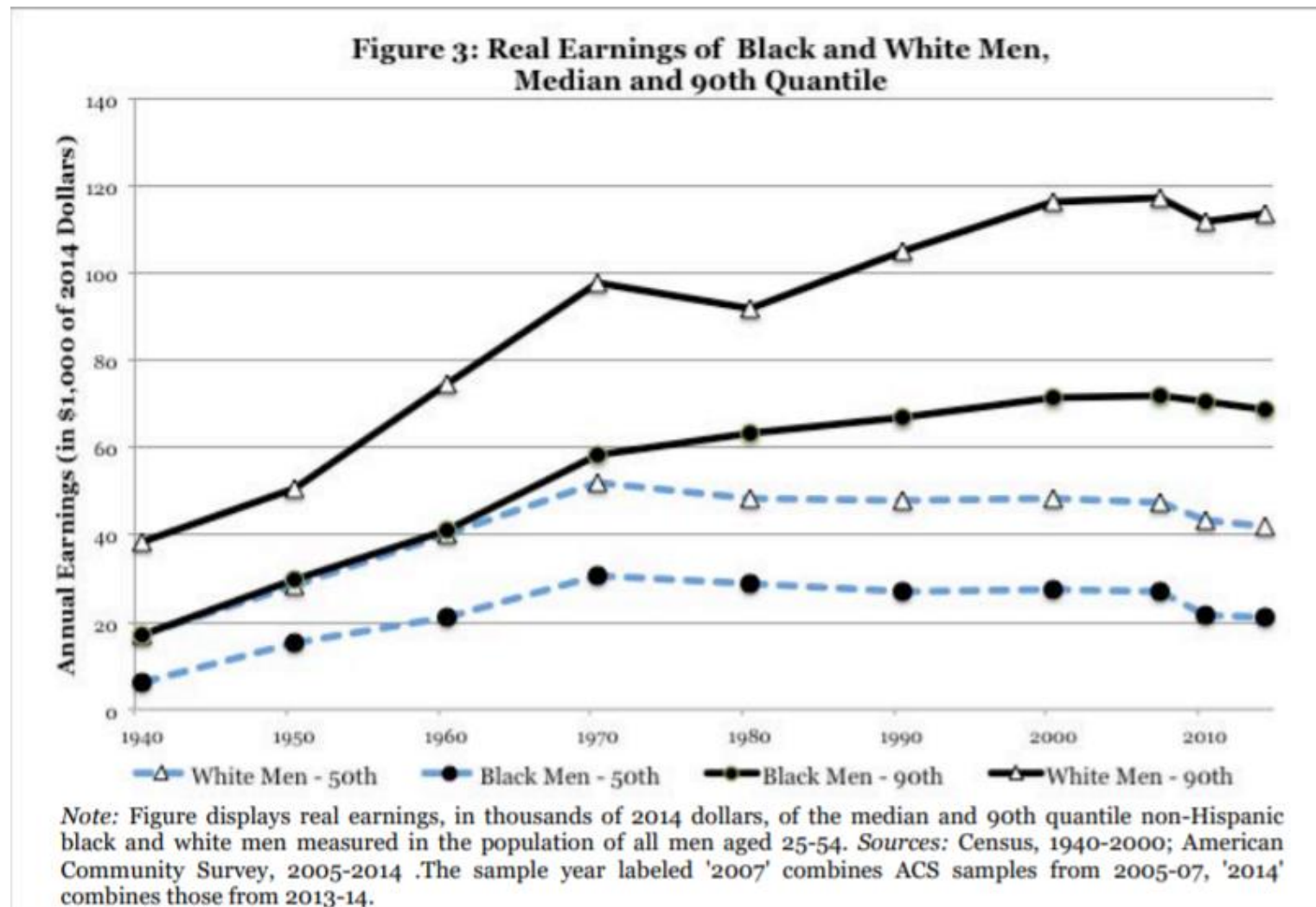
## Average hourly black-white wage gaps, by gender, 1979–2015 (adjusted and unadjusted)



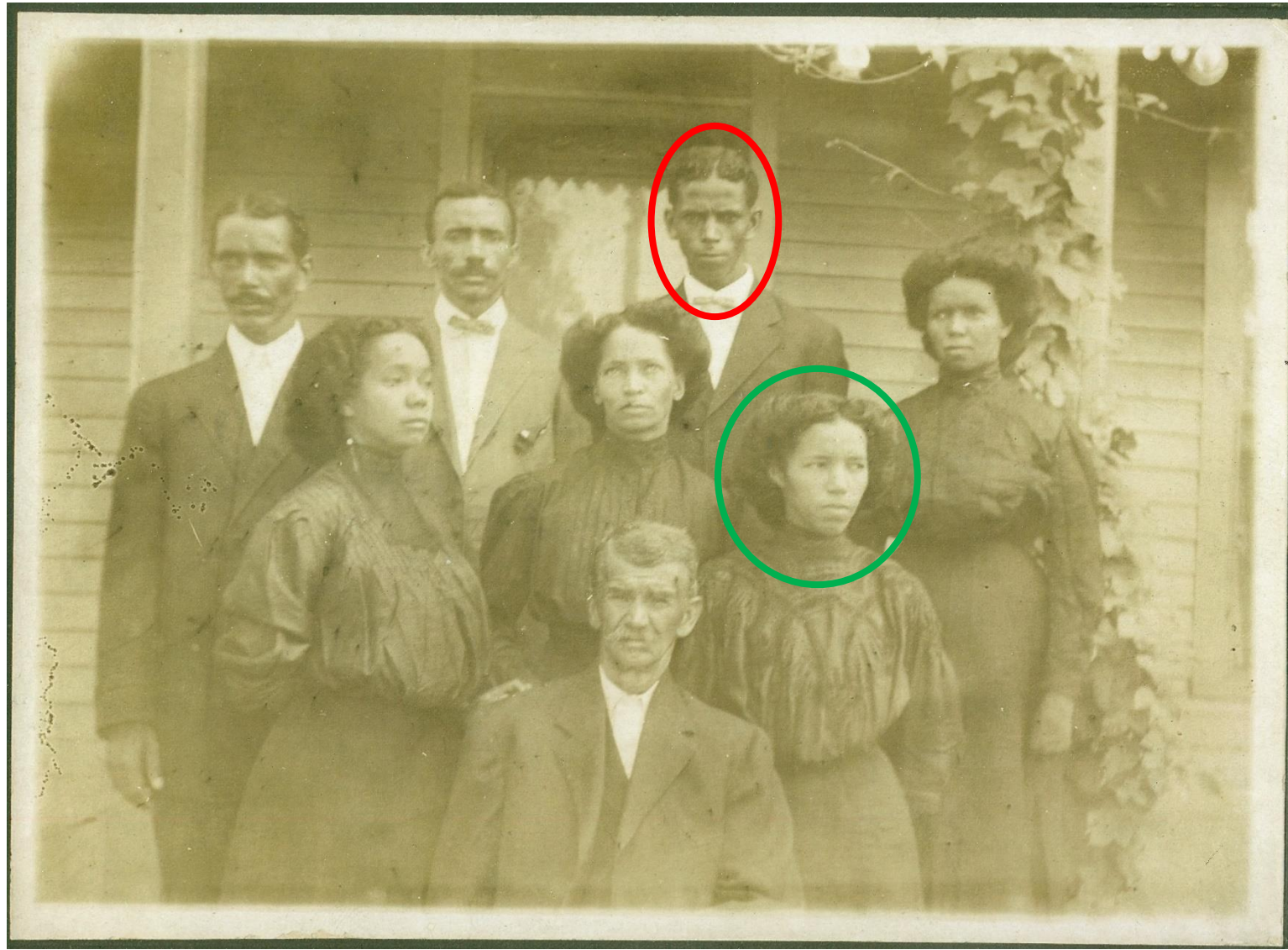
**Note:** The adjusted wage gaps are for full-time workers and control for racial difference in education, potential experience, region of residence, and metro status.

**Source:** EPI analysis of Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group microdata

Economic Policy Institute



Source: Patrick Bayer and Kerwin Kofi Charles, “Divergent Paths: A New Perspective on Earnings Differences Between black and White Men Since 1940 , The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 133 (August 2018) 1459-1501



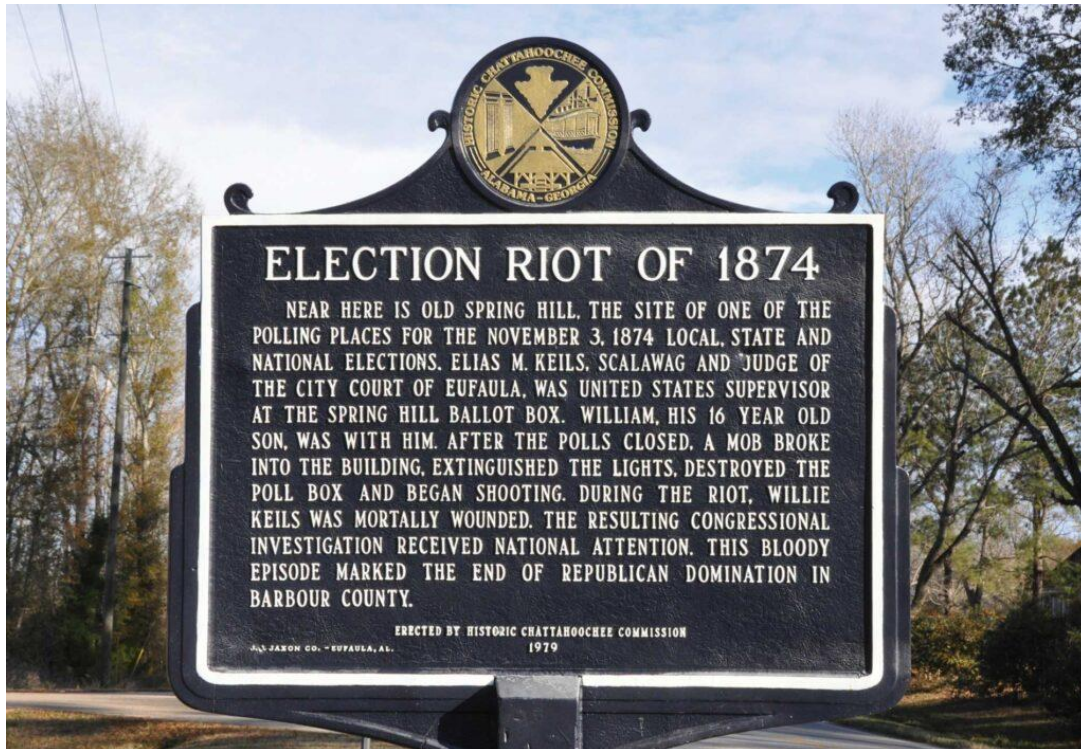
Department of Economics

HOWARD  
UNIVERSITY





# The stolen election of 1874 in Barbour County, Alabama through violence



a shot was fired, but that was all. Just about that time a United States deputy marshal called on me and wanted to know in what way I could assist him. I showed him General Order No. 75, and asked him if he had any writs. He showed me his warrant, saying that he had no writs. He said he did not know but what he might want me as he was afraid that there might be a riot. He then went away. I had instructions from Colonel Daggett to assist sheriffs or their deputies as a *posse comitatus*. The sheriff or his deputy called on me and I informed him in what way I could assist him. He then went off. At about 3 o'clock in the afternoon I received a telegram from Colonel Daggett instructing me to keep away from the polls. It read as follows:

"EUFAULA, 3d day, 1874.

Keep your troops away from crowd, and have nothing whatever to do with the sheriff or any other State officers.

A. S. DAGGETT,  
"Captain Second Infantry."

"Lieut. WILLIAM J. TURNER,  
"United States Army, Spring Hill, Ala."

It seems that Spring Hill is about six miles from Old Spring Hill, the precinct, and there was a new telegraph station just established there. This telegram was among the first probably sent over the wires. It was sent in the condition that I now exhibit it, without envelope at all, written in lead pencil, and was sent in the hands of any person who happened to be coming up this way. Very probably the telegram on its way to me had been seen by a large number of people, for soon after its reception I noticed a considerable change in the tone of the crowd about the polls. Between 4 and 5 o'clock young Kiels came to me and told me that a man had leveled a double-barreled gun at his father's head; that he thought it was cocked, and he wanted me to come there to assist him. I had received this telegram at that time, and I explained to him how impossible it was for me to assist him. I told him how much I regretted it, and that I sympathized very much with him and begged that he would induce his father to come down and stay with my troops where I would protect him, but I could not go near the polls or interfere with the election in any way. He told me that his father would not do so, and I then persuaded him to come back after he had informed his father of my views. I told him that I thought it was an unsafe place for him to be; that I felt very much for him, and wanted him to be protected. Between 6 and 7 o'clock a riot took place, and I heard a great deal of noise, and probably thirty shots were fired. A short time afterward young Kiels was brought into my quarters. He had four wounds, three in his legs and one in his abdomen, and I believe a grazing shot wound in his side. Mr. Wallace Comer was also brought in shot through the legs about that time. It was said that Mr. Comer was shot while protecting Judge Kiels. I understood that when Judge Kiels rose up from behind the counter and begged that they would not kill him; three of the Comers joined in protecting him and prevented the murder of the judge.

Q. Did you hear any expressions of the people in relation to this transaction?—A. No, sir. All that I had understood that there was a large number of people who were

# Some of the newspaper accounts of the April 1902 Will Reynolds lynching in Tuscumbia



# Some of the scholarship on the history of Race and Unions in American Railroads

- Kelly, Joseph (2013) “Showing Agency on the Margins: African American Railway Workers in the South and Their Unions, 1917-1930,” *Labour* (Spring) 71: 123-148.
- Hill, Herbert (1995) “The Importance of Race in American Labor History,” *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society* (Winter) 9: 317-343.
- Arnesen, Eric (1994) “‘Like Banquo’s Ghost, It Will Not Down’: The Race Question and the American Railroad Brotherhoods, 1880-1920,” *The American Historical Review* (December) 99: 1601-1633.
- Matthews, John Michael (1974) “The Georgia ‘Race Strike’ of 1909,” *The Journal of Southern History* (November, Number 4) 40: 613-630



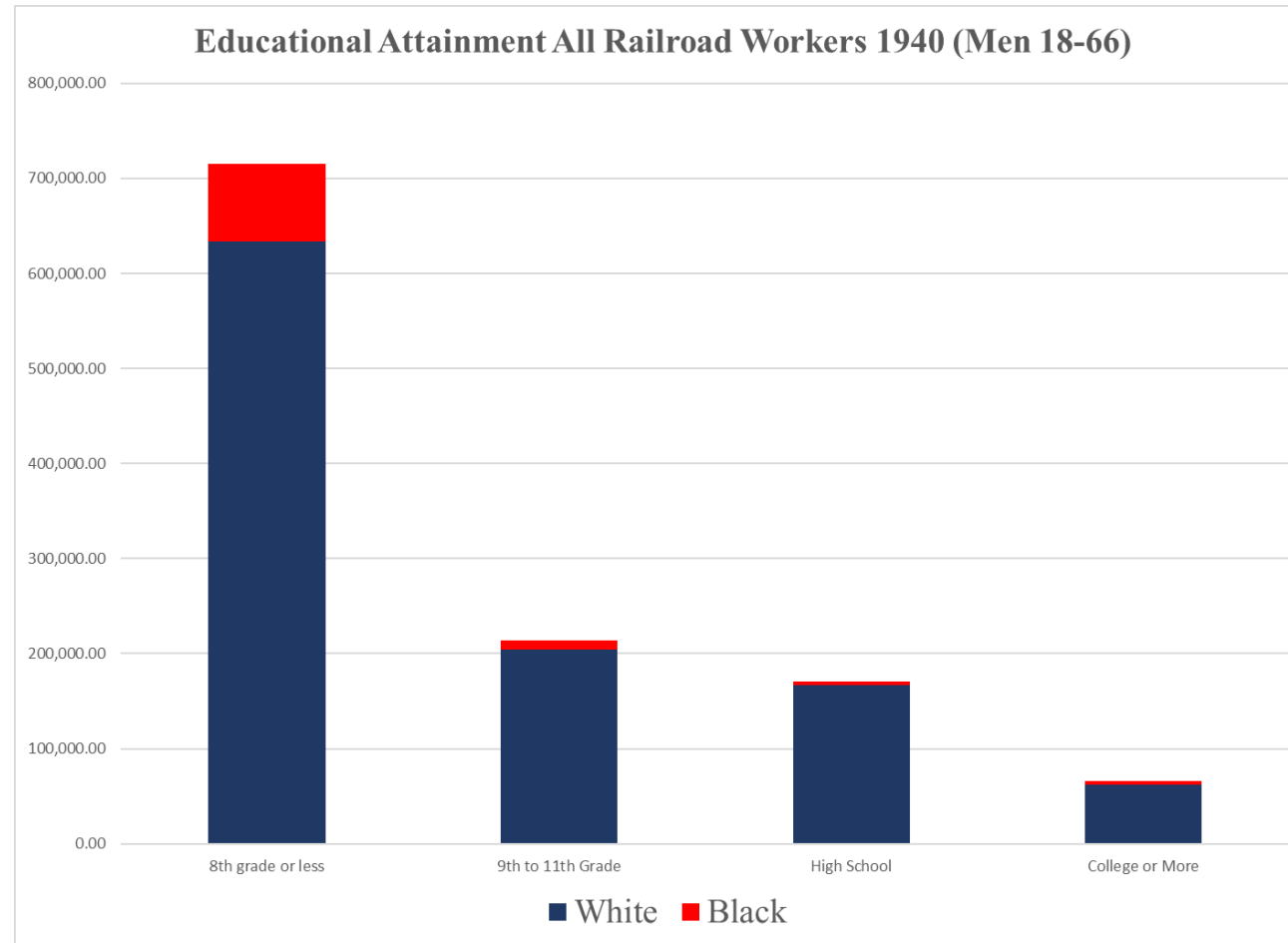
# Georgia Railroad Strike 1909



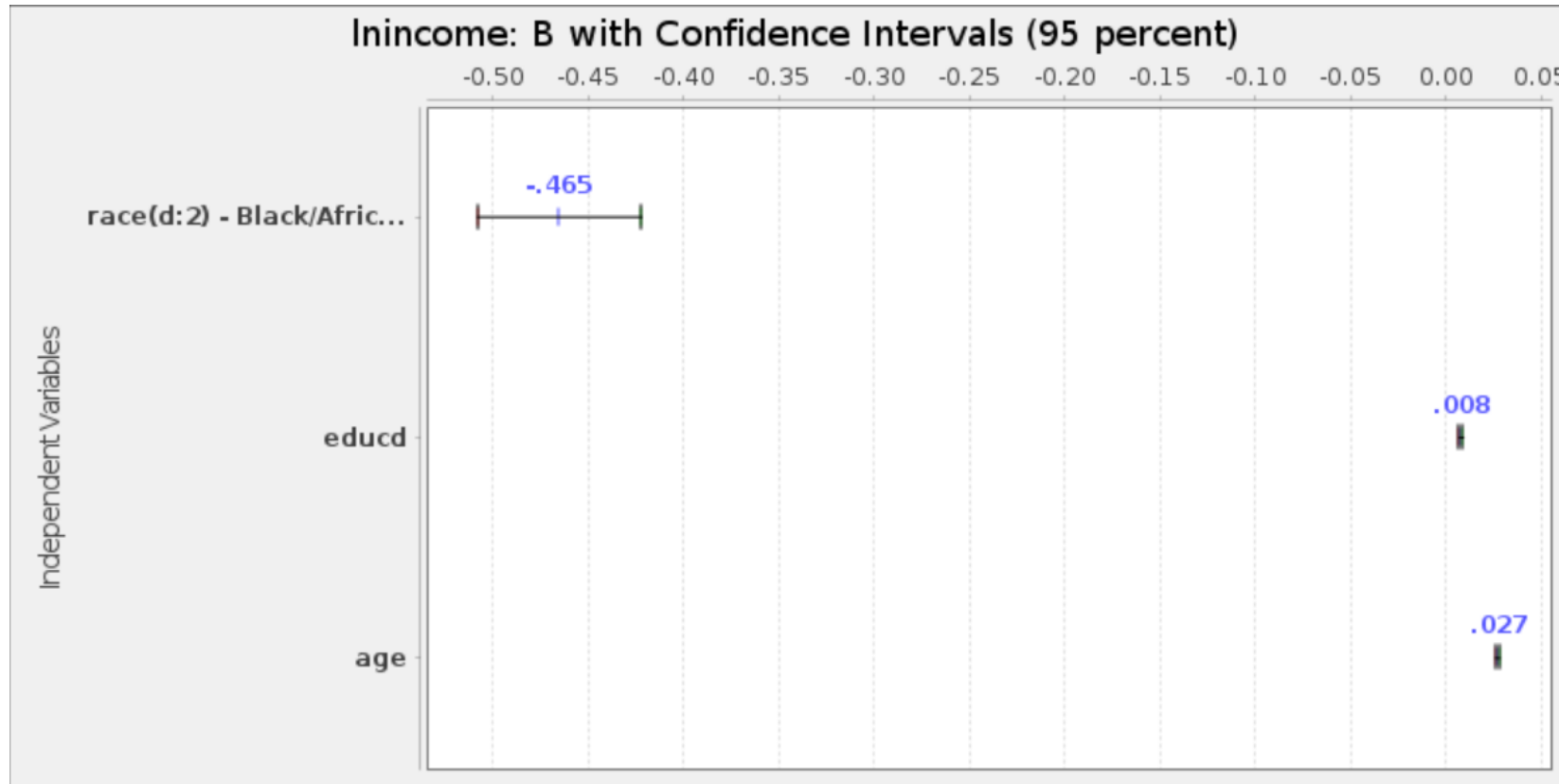
- “Mr. Scott says that this part of a plan to drive the negro from the railroads. The truth is our movement is only defensive...Mr. Scott’s action is forcing negro supremacy on the Georgia railroad...They already have in Augusta negroes who occupy the positions of yard foreman of engines...and the white engineer is subject to his orders and control.” — Eugene Ball, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen



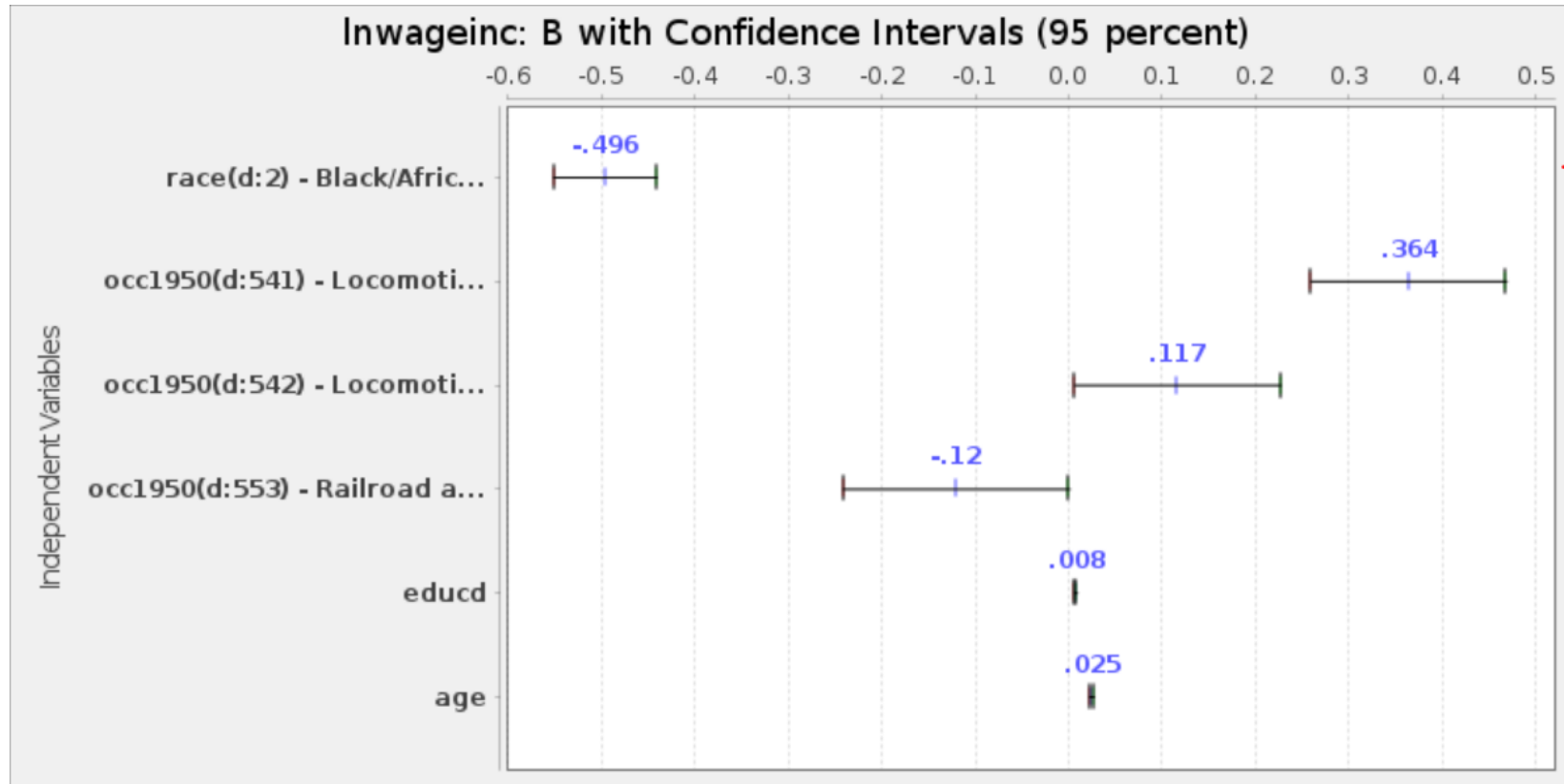
# Railroad workers as of 1940 Census



# Typical regression of log wage earnings on race, education and age for Men 18-60 in the Railroad Industry in the 1940 Census



# Income of male railroad workers(18-60 years old), 1940 in states with segregated schools

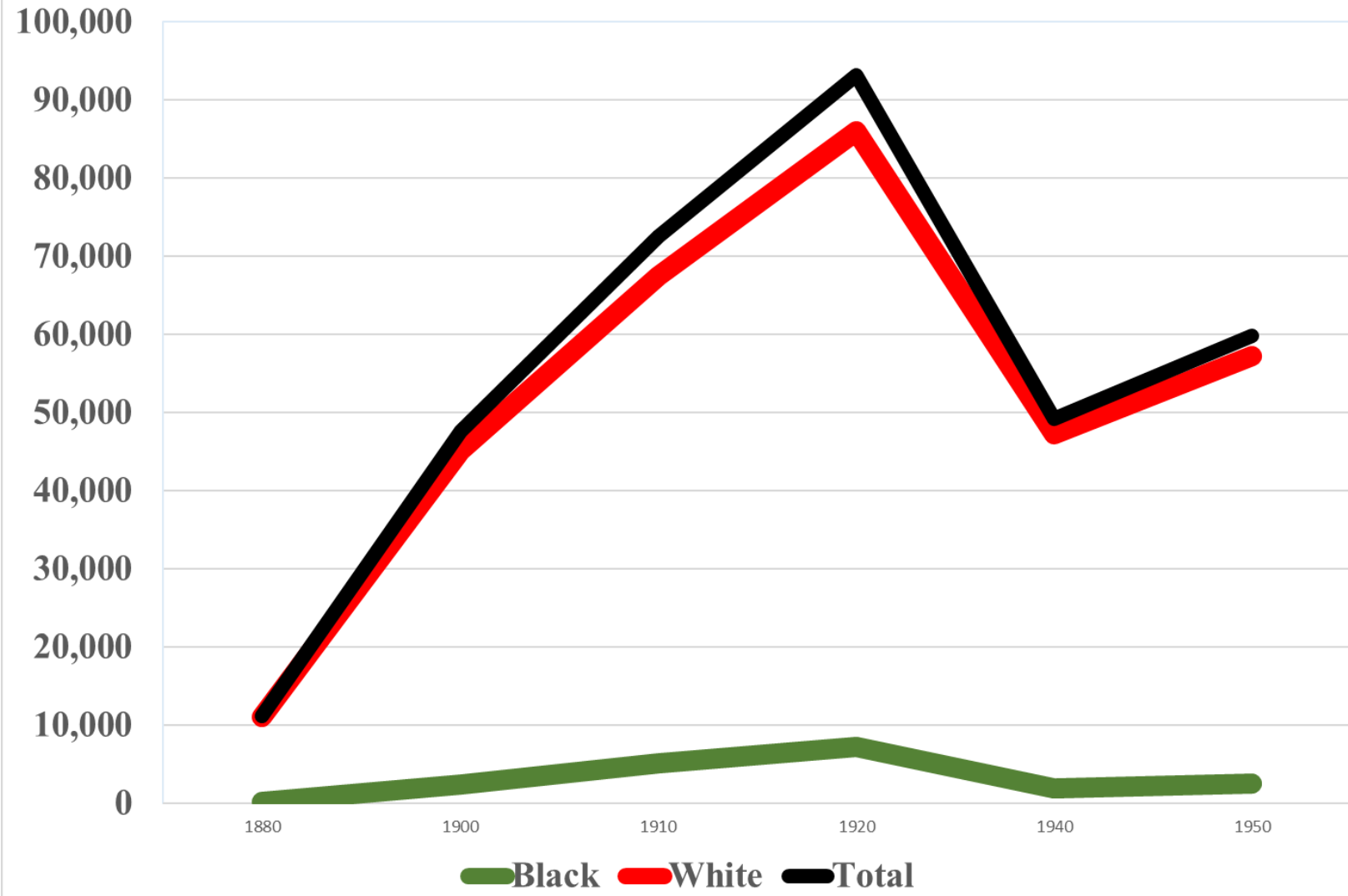




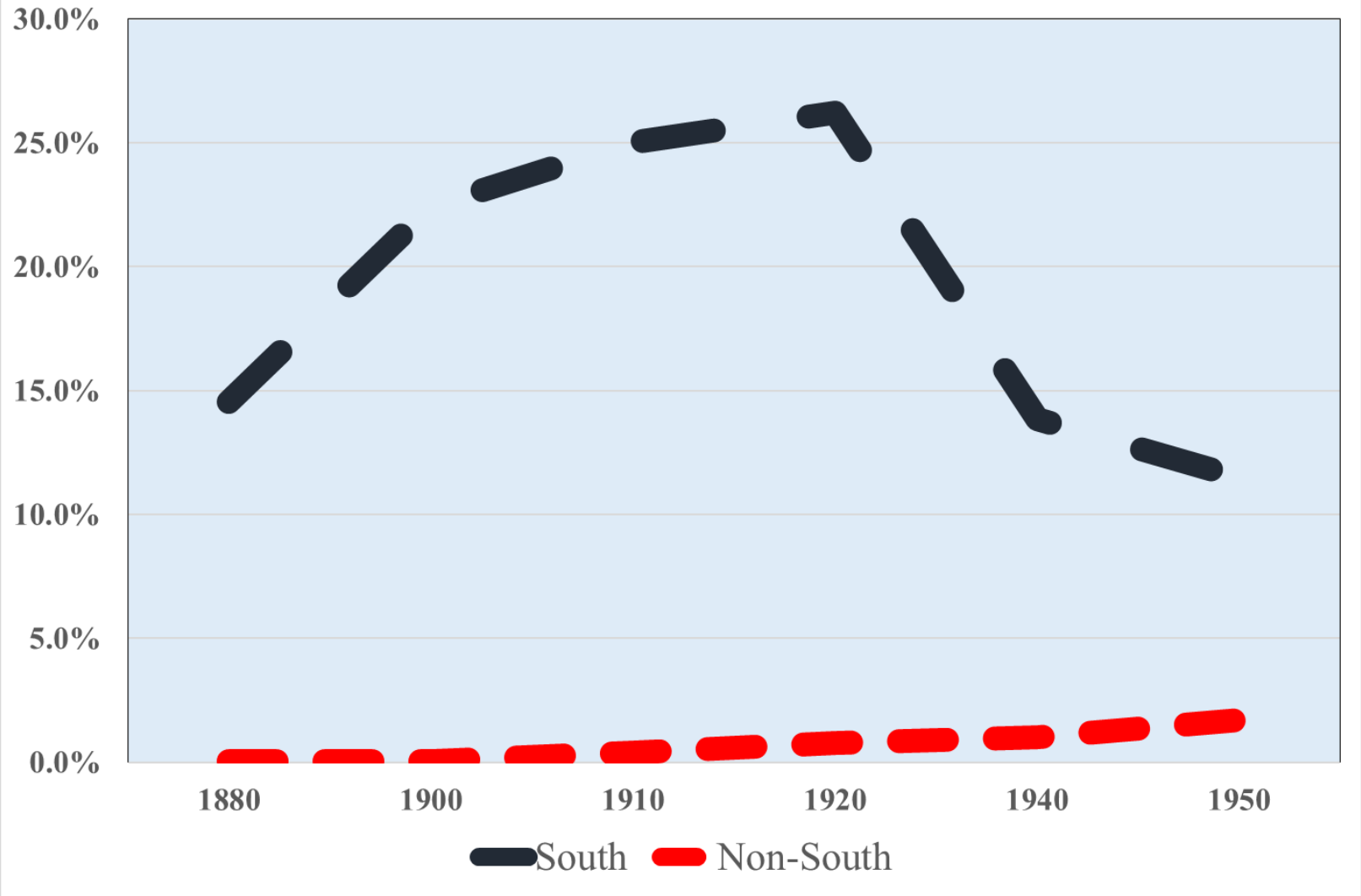
# Railroad earnings (highlighting firemen) by race for Men 18-60 in 1940

Cells contain: -Mean -Weighted N		occ1950		
		0 *_*	1 Locomotive firemen	<b>ROW TOTAL</b>
<b>race</b>	1: White	<b>1,525.10</b> 947,015.0	<b>1,549.07</b> 42,900.0	<b>1,526.14</b> 989,915.0
	2: Black/African American/Negro	<b>782.33</b> 92,106.0	<b>1,249.53</b> 1,988.0	<b>792.20</b> 94,094.0
	<b>COL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,459.26</b> 1,039,121.0	<b>1,535.80</b> 44,888.0	<b>1,462.43</b> 1,084,009.0

# Railroad Firemen



# Black share of Railroad Firemen





# Technology and Violence

## COURT DENIES PHYSICIAN NEW TRIAL IN POISON CASE

PRICE 10 CENTS

THE Chicago Defender  
WORLD'S GREATEST WEEKLY

FIRST EDITION

70L. XVI NO. 32

SATURDAY

CHICAGO, AUGUST 6, 1931

PRICE TEN CENTS

**DENY GOLF CLUB  
RIGHT TO ENTER  
CITY CONTEST**

South Park Commissioners  
Back Jackson Park Offi-  
cials as Jim Crow Order

When a group representing the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest, met with the South Park Commissioners, the latter refused to consider the application. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

**Chicago Notes**  
The city officials have refused to consider the application of the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

**Prohibition Acts**  
The city officials have refused to consider the application of the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

**Civil Liberties Union  
Fights for Free Speech**

The city officials have refused to consider the application of the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

# PAID \$500 TO KILL FIREMEN

Chicago Boys Win Cherry Picking Championship



Group of Walnut St. C. A. boys who won the cherry picking championship at Jackson Park, Chicago, August 5, 1931.

**WOMEN IGNORE  
SENATOR'S PLEA;  
NOMINATE VANN**

The city officials have refused to consider the application of the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

**DOCTOR MUST  
GO TO PRISON  
FOR MURDER**

Accused of Giving Kin Anesthetic  
to Collect Large Inheritance

The city officials have refused to consider the application of the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

**Auto Driver  
Aids Woman;  
Is Stabbed**



The city officials have refused to consider the application of the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

**Trainmen Shot to Death From Ambush  
When They Refuse to Leave Service  
of Mississippi Railroads**

BY STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city officials have refused to consider the application of the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

**Banker Deaths**



The city officials have refused to consider the application of the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

**LIBERIAN HEAD  
HONOR GUEST AT  
ANNIVERSARY**

Seventy-fifth Year of Independence of Republic of Liberia Celebrated

The city officials have refused to consider the application of the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

**Wagon**

**On Fifty Day Boat**



The city officials have refused to consider the application of the White City Golf Club, which has been denied the right to enter the city contest. The club officials claim that the city officials are discriminating against them because of their race.

# THOUSANDS ATTEND BAPTIST CONVENTION

PRICE 10 CENTS

## THE Chicago Defender

WORLD'S GREATEST WEEKLY

FIRST EDITION

VOL. XVI NO. 37 SATURDAY CHICAGO, SEPTEMBER 10, 1921 PRICE TEN CENTS

### Woman Beheaded by Street Car Tulsa "Fire Zone" Held Illegal

#### CROWD SEES BODY DASH UNDER CAR

#### Hurled From Motorcycle Under Wheels of Moving Street Car; Driver Held

Mrs. Lucinda Smith, 25, 1908 Duquesne street, was killed today afternoon at 2nd and Federal streets when she was beheaded by the wheels of a street car. The body was hurled from the motorcycle under the wheels of the moving street car. The driver was held.

# TRAINMEN SHOT FROM AMBUSH

#### LAW STOPS TULSA LAND 'GRABBERS'

#### "Fire Zone" Urged by Real Estate Men Fails to Get Sanction of Local Judge



The Tulsa, Okla., judge, today passed upon the city of Tulsa has been ordered to pay \$100,000 in damages to the Tulsa Land Grabbers' association. The judge ruled that the city's action in creating a "fire zone" was illegal and that the city was liable for the damages suffered by the land grabbers.

#### Dubois Voices Equality Issue of Pan-Africans

London, Sept. 10.—The issue of equality for the colored people of the world is the main theme of the Pan-African congress which is being held here today. The congress is the largest of its kind ever held in London.

#### Murder Gang in Mississippi Fire on Railroad Men From Brush Concealment; Government Asked to Check Terror

London, Sept. 10.—A number of the members of the "Black Legion" were today arrested in Mississippi. The gang is known for its violent activities and its members are active in the state.

#### Demands Food With Eighteen Holes in Body

London, Sept. 10.—A man who has been described as a "man with holes in his body" today demanded food. The man is said to be suffering from a severe case of starvation.

#### LONDONERS AROUSED BY MOB TALKS

Foreigners puzzled at meaning of democracy as it applies in America.

#### Soldier Minus Legs Lies on Truck for Hours

London, Sept. 10.—A soldier who has been described as a "man with no legs" today lay on a truck for hours. The soldier is said to be suffering from a severe case of amputation.

#### SWEDISH GIRL SAYS SHE HAS TWO OTHERS

Stockholm, Sept. 10.—A Swedish girl today said she has two other children. The girl is said to be suffering from a severe case of illegitimacy.

#### Convention of Baptists Under Way

The annual convention of the Baptist church is today in session in Chicago. The convention is the largest of its kind ever held in the city.

#### Officials Advise

Officials today advised that the government is taking steps to check the activities of the "Black Legion" in Mississippi. The officials are said to be working closely with the local authorities.

#### Boston Mob Would Lynch on L'Ginder

Boston, Sept. 10.—The Boston mob today threatened to lynch a man named L'Ginder. The mob is said to be very active in the city.

#### A Woman's Comment

A woman today commented on the meaning of democracy in America. She is said to be a prominent figure in the city.

#### Cleveland's Mayor Orders Ku Klux Out

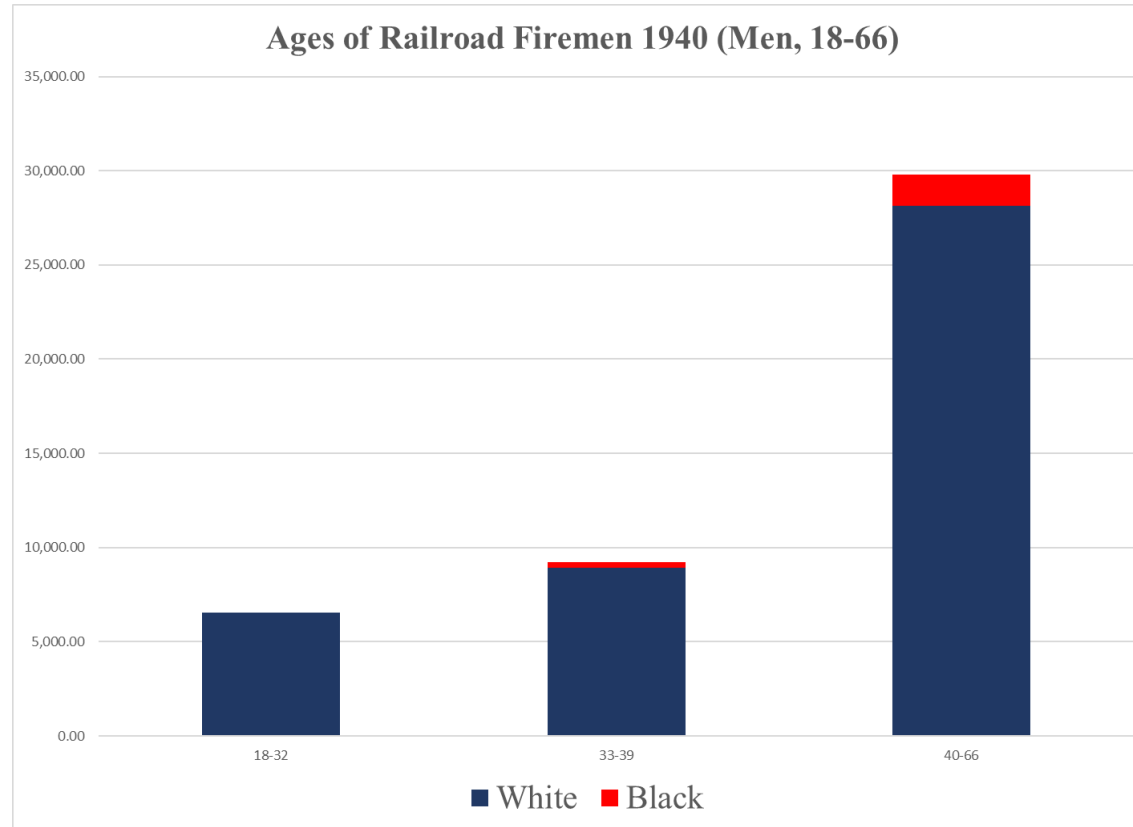
Cleveland, Sept. 10.—The mayor today ordered the Ku Klux Klan out of the city. The mayor is said to be a strong supporter of civil rights.

# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Department of Economics

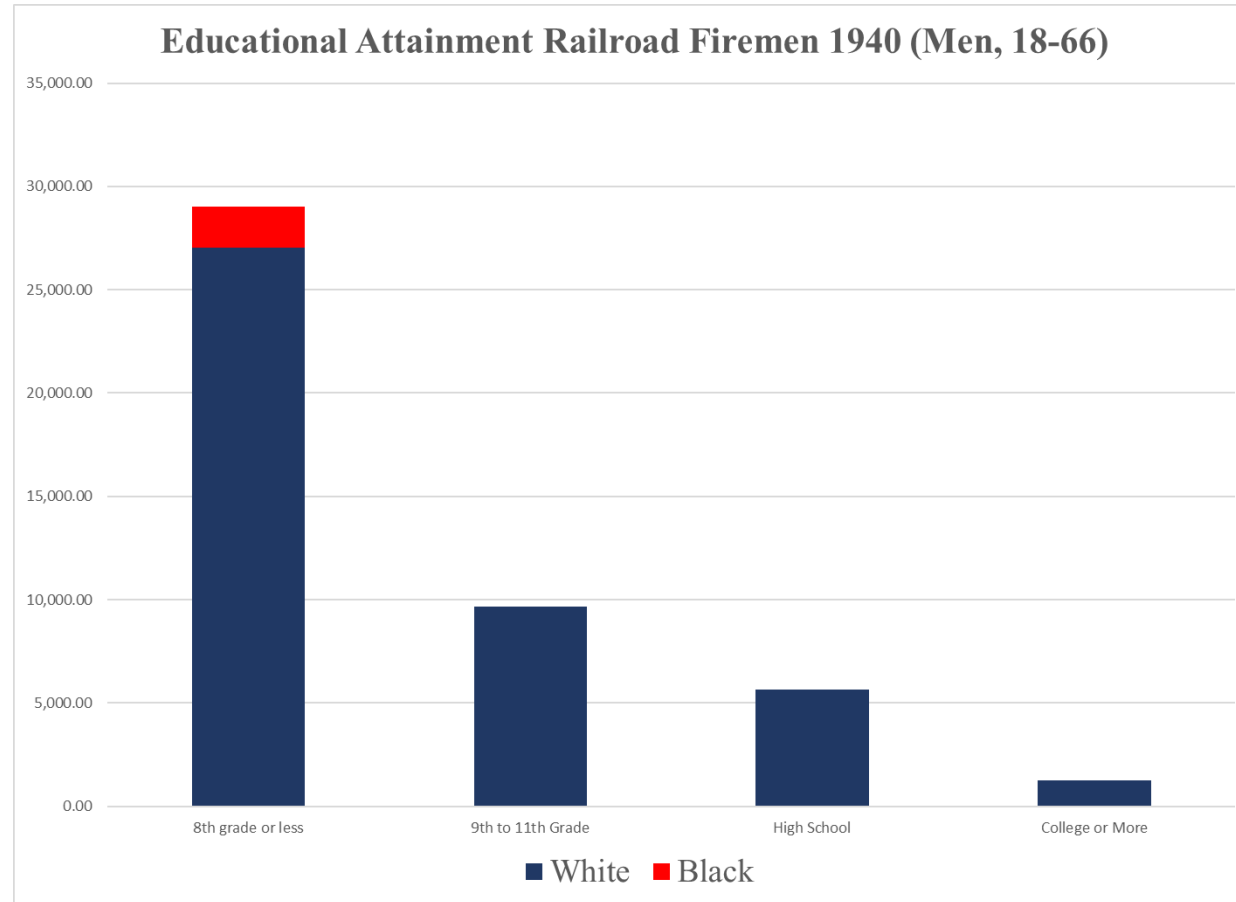


# Railroad Firemen by Race and Age 1940

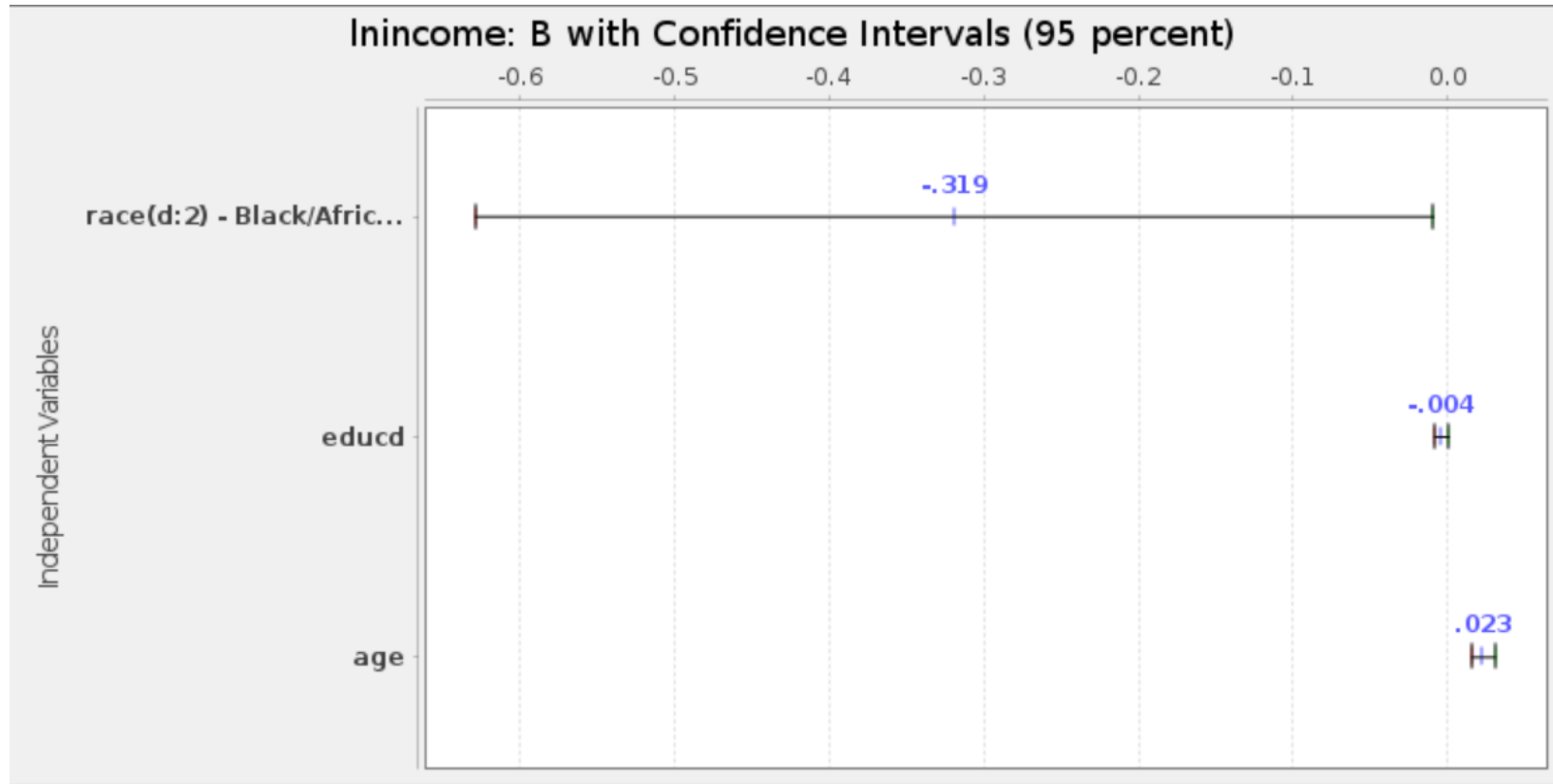




# Railroad Firemen 1940



# Typical regression of log wage earnings on race, education and age for Men 18-60 , Firemen in the Railroad Industry in the 1940 Census



148 F.2d 403 (1945)

TUNSTALL  
v.  
BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN AND ENGINEMEN et al.

No. 5125.

Circuit Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit.

April 9, 1945.

Charles H. Houston, of Washington, D. C. (Joseph C. Waddy, of Washington, D. C., on the brief), for appellant.

William G. Maupin and James G. Martin, both of Norfolk, Va. (Harold C. Heiss and Russell B. Day, both of Cleveland, Ohio, on the brief), for appellees.

\*404 Before PARKER, SOPER, and DOBIE, Circuit Judges.

PARKER, Circuit Judge.

This is a suit by a Negro fireman employed by the Norfolk-Southern Railway Company, who brings the suit in behalf of himself and other Negro firemen employed by that company. The defendants are the railway company, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, certain subordinate lodges of that brotherhood and one of the officers of a local lodge. The gravamen of the complaint is that the brotherhood has been selected as bargaining agent of the firemen of the defendant railway company; that it excludes Negro firemen from membership; that it has negotiated a trade agreement with the company discriminating against Negro firemen; and that as a result of this agreement plaintiff has suffered discrimination with respect to seniority rights and has been damaged thereby. The relief asked is a declaratory judgment to the effect that the brotherhood as bargaining representative is bound to represent fairly and without discrimination all members of the craft, an injunction restraining the defendants from giving effect to the trade agreement in so far as it discriminates against Negro firemen and restraining the brotherhood from acting as bargaining representative of Negro firemen so long as it refuses to represent them fairly and impartially, an award against the brotherhood for damages sustained by plaintiff, and an order that plaintiff be restored to the position to which he would be entitled by seniority in absence of the contract.



# Education and Race of Railroad Porters

