There is a noticeable decline in the African-American population from 1860 to 1920. While it is outside the scope of this research to determine the causes of such a trend, this decline provides important context for understanding this population.

This graph shows the overall positive trend toward higher literacy with the exception of the downward trend from 1870 to 1880.

*1880 data is not included because most of the records for that year were lost in a fire.*