Granville Tailer Woods

By: Jessica Wang; A Days Period 3
Who is Granville T. Woods?

- born on April 23, 1856 in Columbus, Ohio
- he was the first African American mechanical and electrical engineer after the Civil War
- he left school and was self taught
- he gained experience in his field through his various jobs at a young age
- played a big role in helping improve transit systems
- often regarded as “Black Edison” because of his huge success
Life Struggles to Become a Well Known Professional

Woods’ biggest life struggle to become a well known professional had dealt with his race.

- He was unable to reach high positions in the engineering industry
- During his jobs in electrical engineering, he faced a lot of discrimination
- He often did not receive much recognition for his works because of his race

Woods also lacked a formal education when he first began working in the field of mechanical and electrical engineering.

- He was forced to no longer attend school when he was 10 years old
- He got a job at age 10 at a machine shop
- He was able to overcome this struggle by gaining knowledge in engineering through his various jobs related to engineering

Woods also had many of his patents stolen by bigger inventors such as Thomas Edison. However, through his persistence and interest in engineering, he was able to overcome these life struggles to ultimately become a very well known professional.
Granville T. Woods’ Works

Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph (1887)

- Woods invented a telegraph service that allowed moving trains to send messages to each other.
- The invention relies on static electricity from telegraph lines to send messages between trains.
- This invention allowed railway systems to drastically improve and become safer.
Granville T. Woods’ Works (Continued)

**Telegraphony (1885)**
- this invention is a combination of a telegraph and a telephone
- uses voice and morse codes to for users to transmit messages
- increased communication and made it easier to send messages

**Third Rail (1892)**
- this invention allowed trains to run on electricity without batteries or wires
- Improved trains and their power
- this invention is still widely used today


“NIHF Inductee Granville Woods Invented Railroad Telegraphy”, *National Inventors Hall of Fame*,

“Granville T. Woods”, *Ohio History Central*,