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# Ex-Slave, 123, Dies in Newark

A former slave, Hartman H. Brown, 123, who had distinct memories of Union soldiers laying seige to Ft. Beauregard in Louisiana during the Civil War, died July 3 at City Hospital. He would have been 124 years old Aug. 4.

Mr. Brown, who lived at the Ivy Haven Nursing Home, was brought to New Jersey 10 years ago with tales of the Civil War

as no history book could ever tell it.

During an interview shortly before his 117th birthday, Mr. Brown recalled the seige of Ft. Beauregard and rattled his battered bamboo cane on the ground while explaining:

"That's the way they went. Thump-a-thump, thump-a-thump the drums beat. The soldiers were away off. God, Almighty, there was a lot of them. Later I played in the trenches."

Mr. Brown, in that same interview, said "When I was a little boy I told myself I'd live a long, long time. And here I am."

Speaking of his long life he explained "I've had good times living and I've had bad times living. They say I was the best farmer in the State of Louisiana—corn, cotton, peas and such."

### Taught to Read

Mr. Brown was brought to Newark by a grandson, Rev. J. C. Brown. "My wife died and there was no one left to care for me" in the South, he said.

Rev. Brown, pastor of the New Light Baptist Church in 14th Avenue, said his grandfather was taught to read and write by his master on a plantation and then spent much of his time teaching other slaves what he had learned.

According to Rev. Mr. Brown, Mr. Brown founded the New Light Baptist Church in Foules, La., and was a deacon there 75 years. Rev. Brown said he named his own church after his grandfather's.

Longevity apparently runs in the Brown family. Rev. Mr. Brown said. Mr. Brown's mother lived to be 125 and his wife died at the age of 94. Of the 14 children he reared, Mr. Brown still has two daughters living. They are Mrs. Mary Hudson of Los Angeles, 94, and Mrs. Rhodie Davis of Houston, Texas, 82.

After coming to New Jersey Mr. Brown said he was "never going back" to the South.

As he explained it: "Don't care where they bury me. My body elongs to the dirt, but my soul all go home forever."

Services were today.

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HARTMAN H. BROWN  
on his 117th birthday

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