WPA Alabama Writers Project
EX SLAVES TALES/ Negro Lore
Bullock County #3

Ready for Filming: 4-15-1977
Filmed: 5-4-1977
Sab

Negro - Slave

Former Slaves-Bullock County

J. T. Brown

J. T. Brown or Tom Brown as he is generally known is a native of the West Indies. He was brought to Union Springs when a small boy and was trained to be house boy for the Shelton family. He went throught the Civil War as body guard to Mr. Menzo Shelton his young master. Tom is a very aristocratic looking negro and is a dark ginger cake color. His manners are very polished and in spite of the fact that he is 102 years of age he will not sit down in the presence of white people. He is as straight as a board and bears himself as though he had the strictest of military training. When Tom was asked to have his picture made he insisted that he not have it taken until he could have his sword also,(su-word is his pronunciation of the word). Although it cannot be seen he carries in his right hand the sword he left him by one of the members of the Shelton family. Tom is above the negro in intelligence and converses very intelligently, he is a brick mason by trade but knows something of everything, he makes chairs, is a black smith and tries not to be idle at anytime.

Z S Frazer

Interviewed J. T. Brown