

Commercial Appeal  
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Memphis, Tennessee

## Verna Coates dies at 97; taught school for 47 years

Verna Hall Coates, who missed only one day of work during her 47 years as an elementary school teacher in the city schools, died yesterday morning at Hardin's Guest Home, where she was a resident. She was 97.

Mrs. Coates was the widow of Alfred James Coates. She was educated in Memphis and retired in 1959. Her last assignment was as a sixth-grade teacher at Peabody School,

where she taught for many years.

Mrs. Elizabeth Coates Rogers said her mother's attendance record was due to good health and a love of teaching. "Teachers get three months vacation in the summer and I was born in the summer," she said.

Mrs. Rogers doesn't know when and why her mother missed the one day of school. "She said she didn't know why

in the world she missed that day. She said, 'I could have had a perfect record.' "

Besides teaching, Mrs. Rogers said her mother "was a big sports fan. She loved baseball and even kept score."

Mrs. Coates was the senior member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, where she had been a member since 1903.

Services will be at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow at Memorial Park Funeral Home with burial in Memorial Park.

She also leaves three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Russell S. Hall  
7321 Deep Valley Drive  
Germantown, Tennessee 38138

Laban Hall Family

daughter of Johnson Eggleston Hall

Johnson E. Hall - Born - Desoto County, Miss. 1863-1943  
Died - Memphis, Tenn. 1943

granddaughter of Laban Hall Sr.

B. 1796 - Fairfield, S.C.  
D. 1865 - Desoto County, Miss.

great granddaughter of John Hall Sr.

B. 1765 - Fairfax, Virginia  
D. 1834 - Fairfield, S.C.