

# Mrs. Frances Coult Dies Day After Her Daughter

### Widow of Joseph Coult, Nearing Century Mark, Not Informed Miss Eliza Coult, Teacher, Had Succumbed Despite Seeming Recovery

Mrs. Frances Coult, who would have been 100 years old next March 20, died in her sleep at her home at 58 Mt. Pleasant avenue today, unaware of the death of her daughter, Miss Eliza Carling Coult, 69, in St. Michael's Hospital yesterday morning.

Miss Coult, who retired two years ago as vice principal of Summer Avenue School, had undergone an operation at the hospital Tuesday and was believed to be recovering when death occurred suddenly. Her mother died at 5 A. M. today.

Because of her advanced age Mrs. Coult had not been informed her daughter was ill. She was given to believe she was "away for her health." News of the daughter's death also had been kept from Mrs. Coult.

The family has been identified with Newark affairs for more than fifty years, having come here from Sussex County. Mrs. Coult's husband, Joseph Coult, who died in 1924, served as city counsel of Newark from 1884 to 1892 and was appointed corporation counsel in 1904.

#### School Days' Romance.

Mrs. Coult was born at Frankford Plains and spent her girlhood there. She attended school with Mr. Coult, and their marriage when she was 23 was the culmination of a school days' romance. Her young husband turned to the study of law at Albany.

He returned to Newton to practice with the firm of Van Blarcom & Cochrane, soon moving to Newark where he became associated with the late Thomas W. McCarter Sr. and Oscar Keen in the firm of McCarter, Coult & Keen. The family has lived here since.

Mrs. Coult was a member of Christ Reformed Church and for years was active in its affairs. Her first home in Newark was in the Woodside section. The Mt. Pleasant avenue home was built forty-six years ago.

The Coult family had four children, two of whom, including Miss Eliza, taught school in Newark many years. Miss Margaret Coult, who died in 1930, taught English at Barringer high school. Mrs. Lillian Coult Kinsey died in 1918. A son, Joseph Jr. of Denville, is a Newark lawyer of the firm of Coult, Satz & Tomlinson.

#### Mrs. Coult Also Taught.

Mrs. Coult was herself a teacher before she married, and was happy that two of her daughters followed the profession. As her span of years advanced toward the century mark, she became increasingly disparaging of efforts to celebrate her birthdays with fitting ceremony. On her 93d birthday she let down the rules and welcomed at a small party at her home two of her former pupils in a country school.

Again, when she became 99, she allowed an interview in which she declared she could not understand why all the fuss was made over a birthday. She spoke of her fondness for many activities not yet abandoned.

Until recently when her sight and hearing became impaired, she was fond of playing bridge. Lately she had found diversion in listening to the radio. She possessed a keen sense of humor and flavored her talk with anecdotes out of a memory that recalled Newark when it was little more than a large village.

#### In School Work 47 Years.

Miss Coult was born at Lafayette. She received her early education in Sussex County schools, and was graduated from Newark Normal School. She taught in several schools in the city before becoming vice principal of the Summer Avenue School. She was in the Newark school system forty-seven years.

Miss Coult also was a member of Christ Reformed Church, and of various teachers' organizations, on committees of which she was active.

Plans for funeral services for Mrs. Coult are not completed. Services for her daughter will be conducted tomorrow at 11 A. M. at the Home for Services, 160 Clinton avenue, by Rev. Henry K. Post, pastor of Christ Reformed Church. Burial probably will be Monday at the same time her mother will be buried at Newton.



Mrs. Frances Coult.

## Probe Witness Names Payne

### Former Assistant War Secretary Quoted in Scandal Case

WASHINGTON (AP)—The name of Frederick H. Payne, former Assistant Secretary of War, was brought prominently today into an investigation of War Department business practices.

Testifying before the House military committee, Frank Speicher, New York dealer in inner tubes, mentioned Payne, Joseph Silverman Jr. of Bradley Beach, a dealer in surplus army supplies, and Norman K. Haig, an official of General Motors, in an account of a proposal by Silverman to have War Department specifications on automobiles and trucks altered.

Speicher testified flatly that Payne, in his hotel room here, told Haig he knew Silverman, had dealt with him a long time and that Haig had "better put him on the payroll, as he could do a lot of good for you."

O'Neal of Legion and Woodring. The witness testified that Silverman claimed to be able to influence the War Department because Ralph O'Neal, past commander of the American Legion, was on his payroll and O'Neal was friendly to Harry H. Woodring, present Assistant Secretary of War.

In his presence at the Washington Union Station, Speicher said, Silverman referred to Dennis Mahoney, New York detective, as "a payoff man between Washington and New York" and said he would like to "have what is in that black satchel" Mahoney was carrying.

Speicher said he stayed away from Washington during the Grand Jury inquiry last year in order not to embarrass Colonel Alexander Williams, former Assistant Quartermaster General to whom he had made loans of \$2,500 and \$2,000. Williams recently was ordered dismissed from the army for accepting the money.

Chairman McSwain (D., S. C.) said Payne would be invited to appear before the committee, which had been trying unsuccessfully since April to obtain information about his business affairs through his bank at Greenfield, Mass., and the Greenfield Tap & Die Corp., of which he is president.

## Canal in China Breaks Its Banks

SHANGHAI (AP)—China's Grand Canal, for 2,000 years the country's greatest north-south waterway, today burst its banks at half a dozen places and overflowed the countryside of Southern Shantung.

A sharp drop in the Yellow River had been believed to end the flood