

Sumner married Margaret Elizabeth Clark in 1903. The couple had two daughters and a son.

For seven years (1899–1906) Sumner was an instructor of zoology at the City College of New York, but he did not enjoy teaching there and turned increasingly to the research he preferred. In the summer of 1897, and again during the summers of 1901 to 1906, Sumner worked on fish problems at Woods Hole, Massachusetts. For brief periods in the summers of 1899, 1900, and 1910 he spent short periods of research at the Naples Zoological Station in Italy. In the late summer of 1899 he was in southern Egypt and the Sudan in an unsuccessful effort to find and study *Polypterus*, a local species of fish. Named director of the U.S. Fish Commission Laboratory at Woods Hole in 1903, he was associated with it full time from 1906 until 1911. With several colleagues Sumner spent some time in a dredging survey of 458 "stations" in Buzzard's Bay and Vineyard Sound and completed his group's final two-volume report, "A Biological Survey of the Waters of Woods Hole and Vicinity" (1913). Between 1911 and 1913 he turned his attention to a marine reconnaissance of San Francisco Bay as a naturalist for the Bureau of Fisheries and the University of California. His *Report Upon the Physical Conditions in San Francisco Bay, Based Upon the Operations of the United States Fisheries Steamer 'Albatross' during the Years 1912 and 1913*, was published in 1914.

Sumner then approached William Emerson Ritter, seeking a place on the faculty of the newly established Scripps Institution for Biological Research in La Jolla, California. Named an assistant professor in 1913, Sumner was promoted to full professor in 1926 and remained with Scripps until his retirement. Sumner, mindful of David Starr Jordan's interest in the long-range influences of environment on evolution, spent seventeen years on research in mice. He was in genetic and environmental influences on mice over many generations resulted from mutation of numerous small differences than single large steps." He concluded that differences resulted from natural selection and the direction of concealment." From 1927 Sumner received additional research support from the Carnegie Institution of Washington. His speculations on the interrelationships between speciation, coloration, geographic adaptations, and genetics were examined, together with other considerations, in his classic and perhaps best-known study, "Genetic, Distributional, and Evolutionary Studies of the Subspecies of Deermice (*Peromyscus*)" (*Bibliographia Genetica* 9 [1932]: 1–106).

Owing to a change in institutional emphasis in 1925, Sumner's employer became the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. In consequence, Sumner felt it politic to abandon his *Peromyscus* research in 1930 and again turned his attention to fish biology. Among other subjects, he studied quantitative color changes in various species of fish as these related to the adjustments they made to available light in their surroundings and to

predator avoidance. In addition, he examined the effects of temperature variations, oxygen consumption, and salt water adaptations in fish. His *Changeable Coloration; its Mechanism and Biological Value, with Special Reference to Fishes*, appeared in 1937. He also noted certain similarities between fish and man as concerned their reactions to color. He was a strong defender of animal research in scientific medicine, and "regard[ed] all work in science as being justified by its value to humanity."

Uncompromisingly candid in his views, Sumner enjoyed the respect of many of his scientific colleagues for the originality of his outlook and for the care, thoroughness, and importance of his researches. Elected in 1937 to the National Academy of Sciences, he became a vice president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and head of its Section F in 1938. He was also president of the American Society of Zoologists.

Sumner was among those expressing deep concern about the negative influences of overpopulation on man and its destructive effect on animal and plant habitat and species as early as the 1920s. He met and was impressed by the work of Margaret Sanger and strongly endorsed birth control programs as one means of dealing with the population crisis. In addition, he was actively interested in wildlife conservation and in scenic preservation. Sumner died in La Jolla.

• Sumner's personal papers and the Sumner family papers are located in the Scripps Archives at the University of California, San Diego. See also the Scripps Institute of Oceanography records there. The papers of Carl Leavitt Hubbs, a longtime friend and colleague, which contain letters and other manuscripts of Sumner's, are also at the University of California at San Diego. His wide-ranging autobiography, *The*

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SUMNER, Francis Cecil (7 Dec. 1895–12 Jan. 1954), psychologist, was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, the son of David Alexander and Ellen Lillian, African Americans who had previously adopted the surname Sumner in honor of Massachusetts's antislavery senator Charles Sumner. Francis received his elementary education in Norfolk, Virginia, and Plainfield, New Jersey. His father was not satisfied with the secondary education in segregated schools, so he taught Sumner himself. Sumner passed a written examination to gain admission to Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in 1911. In 1915 he graduated magna cum laude with honors in English, Greek, Latin, modern foreign languages, and philosophy. Sumner said that his sole am-

bition was to be a writer, but he also said that he knew he would have to fall back on teaching or something else as a means of livelihood.

While at Lincoln University, Sumner corresponded with members of the psychology faculty at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, including Clark's president, G. Stanley Hall. Hall was eminent among psychologists; his accomplishments included starting the *American Journal of Psychology*, leading the founding of the American Psychological Association (APA), and serving as the APA's first president. With Hall's sponsorship, Sumner enrolled at Clark and earned a second B.A. (English) in 1916. In 1916–1917 Sumner returned to Lincoln University for graduate study, earning an M.A. concurrently with teaching psychology and German. He desired to further his education but was undecided as to whether to pursue psychology or German. In 1917, with Hall's encouragement and a senior fellowship, Sumner returned to Clark University to study psychology.

Sumner began his doctoral studies at Clark on 15 October 1917. A week later he passed the French and German examinations required for candidacy for the Ph.D. Although he intended to study the psychology of race, he wrote instead "Psychoanalysis of Freud and Adler," a work completed by the end of the 1918 spring semester. (In 1909 Hall had been the first to bring Freud to the United States.) While seeking a publisher for his manuscript, Sumner asked Hall to consider it for the doctoral dissertation. Before Hall could examine the manuscript, Sumner was drafted into military service. The United States was involved in World War I, and Hall complied immediately with Sumner's request for a letter recommending that he receive officer training. However, it was too late, and Sumner became a sergeant in the 808th Pioneer Infantry and was sent to France. His letters home graphically portrayed the frightening experiences of being under bombardment. Following the 11 November 1918 armistice, Sumner's unit was detained in France until June 1919. He wrote to Hall of his fondness for France and of his desire to live there, but he returned to Clark University to complete his doctorate in psychology. Hall and the other members of Sumner's doctoral committee accepted with high praise the Freud and Adler manuscript as his dissertation. Published in 1923 as "Psychoanalysis of Freud and Adler; or, Sex-Determinism and Character Formation" (*Pedagogical Seminary*), Sumner's dissertation contrasted the two bitter rivals' theories of sex and character formation, in Sumner's words, by "throw[ing] the searchlight of psychoanalysis upon the lives of its very founders." Sumner received his Ph.D. on 14 June 1920, becoming the first black American to earn a Ph.D. in psychology.

In the academic year 1920–1921 Sumner was a professor of psychology at Wilberforce University in Ohio, and he taught during the summer of 1921 at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He married Frances H. Hughston in 1922; they had no children. After the marriage ended, he married Nettie

M. Brooker in 1946; they had no children. From 1921 to 1928 Sumner was on the faculty at West Virginia Collegiate Institute. He was a persistent critic of practices that hindered the development of intellectual blacks and black education and a visionary for the advancement of education for African Americans. For example, Sumner advocated the consolidation of both the intellectual and material resources of the forty scattered, substandard black colleges and universities to form five strategically designed universities.

In 1928 Sumner accepted a position at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he was appointed as the acting chair and, soon thereafter, the chair of the psychology department. He remained at Howard until his death. Initially, the department consisted of Sumner and his assistant, Frederick P. Watts. In 1930 Max Meenes, a white man with a Ph.D. in psychology from Clark University, joined Sumner and Watts. For the next fifteen years Sumner, Watts, and Meenes were Howard's psychology department, and they enabled the university to become the leading institution in educating black psychologists. Although Howard did not confer the Ph.D. until nearly twenty years after Sumner's death, it was documented in 1975 that of the 300 black American Ph.D. psychologists, sixty had received bachelor's or master's degrees from Howard.

Sumner was not considered to be a charismatic teacher, but Kenneth B. Clark, perhaps the most recognized black American psychologist, attributed his conversion to the study of psychology to Sumner. Clark earned bachelor's and master's degrees under Sumner's supervision, and he served as the first African-American president of the APA (1970–1971). Clark and his wife, Mamie Phipps Clark (Meenes's master's student at Howard), published research on children's self-esteem that was instrumental in the 1954 Supreme Court decision that rendered segregation in public schools illegal. Recalling the occasion of Sumner's death, Clark said, "I felt it more deeply than I felt the death of my father."

Sumner's scholarly accomplishments included at least forty-five publications. Among his interests was the psychology of religion. He presented a paper titled "Mental Hygiene and Religion" at the First International Congress of Religious Psychology in Vienna in 1931. Inspired by his participation in the congress, he collected an extensive set of European works on the psychology of religion that led to his writing a large but unpublished manuscript, "The Structure of Religion: A History of European Psychology of Religion." In addition he wrote more than 2,000 abstracts for *Psychological Abstracts* (this was before authors provided their own abstracts), mostly from articles in foreign language journals. These were outstanding accomplishments, considering that he taught five courses most semesters and handled the administration of the department. Sumner was a fellow of the APA, and his other professional memberships included the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Education Research Association, the Eastern Psychological Association, and the Southern Soci-

ety for Philosophy and Psychology. Sumner has been recognized as the "father of black American psychologists." He died of a heart attack while shoveling snow at his home in Washington, D.C. A combat veteran of World War I, Sumner was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

• Some of Sumner's personal correspondence with G. Stanley Hall and James Porter is at the University Archives in Goddard Library, Clark University. A principal source is Robert V. Guthrie, *Even the Rat Was White: A Historical View of Psychology* (1976; rev. ed., 1998). Other sources are James A. Bayton, "Francis Sumner, Max Meenes, and the Training of Black Psychologists," *American Psychologist* 30 (1975): 185-86; and Reginald Hopkins et al., "A History of the Department of Psychology at Howard University," *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* 82 (1992): 161-67. A partial, unpublished transcript of a recorded interview by Professor Leslie H. Hicks of Howard University with Kenneth B. Clark included the quotation about Sumner's death; Hicks also communicated directly with the author about Sumner, Watts, and Howard University.

ROGER K. THOMAS

SUMNER, Helen (12 Mar. 1876-10 Mar. 1933), economist, was born Helen Laura Sumner in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the daughter of George True Sumner, an attorney, and Katharine Eudora Marsh. The family moved to Colorado when Sumner was five. Except for a six-month homesteading venture in the Montezuma Valley, the family spent the next eight years in Durango, where Sumner's father was a judge, and then moved to Denver. After attending local schools, Sumner went east to Wellesley College. She spent one of the next four years at home but still graduated with her class in 1898.

At Wellesley, where the faculty included a number of articulate and committed social reformers, Sumner developed a strong interest in politics and economics. She did volunteer work with the College Settlements Association, and when Democratic candidate William Jennings Bryan championed the cause of free silver during the presidential campaign of 1896, she published a novel on the subject, *The White Slave; or, The Cross of Gold* (1896). After following closely the bitter strikes being led by the Western Federation of Miners during these years, she enrolled in 1902 as a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, one of the country's most active centers of labor scholarship. Sumner worked particularly with labor economists Richard T. Ely, whom she served as secretary, and John R. Commons, who made her an honorary fellow in political economy in 1904-1906. She wrote one chapter in Commons's *Trade Unionism and Labor Problems* (1905) and coauthored *Labor Problems. A Textbook* (1905) with another professor, Thomas Sewall Adams.

In September 1906 Sumner took fifteen months off from her studies to undertake a research project in Colorado. This study, which was commissioned by the Collegiate Equal Suffrage League of New York State, was intended to explore what difference female

voting had made to Colorado, where women had won complete suffrage twelve years earlier. Women seeking the vote had often claimed that their presence in the electorate would elevate the nation's political life. It is a tribute to Sumner's care as a social scientist that, though she was a committed suffragist working for a suffrage organization, her report provided little support for this claim, at least with respect to Colorado, although she did point to positive changes in women's own sense of themselves as citizens. The study was published as *Equal Suffrage* (1909).

Sumner returned to her doctoral studies at Wisconsin, working closely with Commons both as his student and as a member of his American Bureau of Industrial Research. She was an associate editor on Commons's eleven-volume *A Documentary History of American Industrial Society* (1910-1911). Her work on the sixth and seventh volumes, involving a close analysis of primary sources from the American labor movement between 1820 and 1840, overlapped with her work on her dissertation, "The Labor Movement in America, 1827-1837," with which she earned the Ph.D. in 1908. A revised version of her dissertation, retitled "Citizenship," constituted about one-third of the pioneering *History of Labour in the United States* (2 vols., 1918) written by Commons and his students. Sumner's section dealt with the workingmen's parties of the 1820s and 1830s, whose demands, she wrote, "even conservative people now recognize to have been in the line of progress toward real democracy."

Sumner broke further new ground in labor scholarship with her *History of Women in Industry in the United States*, which appeared as volume 9 of the nineteen-volume *Report on Condition of Woman and Child Wage-Earners in the United States*, published by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1910. Sumner's study of women workers in dozens of different industries included extensive data drawn from federal and state reports as well as much information that had, as she noted in her introduction, "long been buried away in rare old books and papers."

For the next several years Sumner lived with her widowed mother in Washington, D.C., while doing contract work for a variety of federal bureaus. In 1910 she published *Industrial Courts in France, Germany, and Switzerland*, based on research for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. She hoped for permanent employment at a level appropriate to her training and experience but was unable to find it. In 1910 she wrote to Commons recalling her work with him in 1905-1906 "when we laid the foundation for the whole study of labor history." That year, she said, had been in many respects "the most profitable of my life." Commons continued to include her in various projects, but he was unable to help her find anything more sustained.

In 1913 Sumner did establish a satisfying institutional association with the newly formed U.S. Children's Bureau. As industrial expert, she collaborated with Ella A. Merritt on *Child Labor Legislation in the United States* (1915) and directed a series of studies on child labor-law administration that formed the basis