

Francis Bertody Sumner Biography



Francis Bertody Sumner was born in Pomfret, Connecticut on August 1, 1874, and died in La Jolla, California, on September 6, 1945. His parents were Arthur and Mary Augusta (Upton) Sumner. He married Margaret Elizabeth Clark on September 10, 1903. She was born in Tivoli, New York on November 23, 1876, and died in Chula Vista, California on December 11, 1967. They had three children, Florence Anne, Elizabeth Caroline and Herbert Clark. Florence Anne Sumner (Mrs. R.N. Henderson) was born on February 6, 1905, and died on October 28, 1988. Elizabeth Caroline Sumner (Mrs. Patterson French) was born on December 29, 1913. Herbert Clark Sumner was born on June 27, 1917, and is deceased.

Francis Bertody Sumner grew up in Oakland, California, and Colorado Springs. He spent his undergraduate years at the University of Minnesota and graduate years at Columbia University. The following fourteen years he taught at the College of the City of New York, served as Director of the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries Laboratory at Woods Hole and then served as Naturalist on R/V Albatross. He joined the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1913 as Professor of Biology. In 1925, when Scripps became oceanographic Francis Bertody Sumner and Thomas Wayland Vaughan discussed moving Francis Bertody Sumner's research to Berkeley or redirecting it towards fish. However, Francis Bertody Sumner remained at SIO until the end of his life.

When Francis Bertody Sumner first arrived at Scripps Institution of Oceanography he became acquainted with Edward Willis Scripps. He accepted Mr. Scripps gift of the SIO faculty lot north of campus. In 1915 he built his family home on this lot and a second home that housed his mother. The family had an additional home in the San Felipe Valley of Baja California.

Several biographies and an autobiography document Francis Bertody Sumner's life:

- Child, Charles Manning. "Francis Bertody Sumner." *Biographical Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences* 25 (1948):147-163.
- Hubbs, Carl L. "Francis B. Sumner." *Copeia* 4 (1945):183-184.
- Provine, William B. "Francis B. Sumner and the Evolutionary Synthesis." *Studies in History of Biology* 3 (1979):211-240.
- Sumner, Francis B. *The Life of an American Naturalist*. Lancaster, PA: Jacques Cattell Press, 1945.