

When Mary's meetings for women became a weekly event, a request was put forward that she should hold a meeting for men....her husband was delighted to arrange one for every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock....."I ventured on one occasion to speak to the men about their married lives and I told them, with a smile, that they doubtless said many pretty things to their wives before they were married, and they ought to show love and courtesy to them afterwards. I urged each of them to give a little present to his wife on her birthday".....and the hint was taken with heartfelt results.

Mary commented in her notes "Although at first I was intensely alarmed at taking such a meeting of men, I soon found it a real pleasure. They were so kind, grateful and responsive."

...her message is the message of all her life:  
 "let us go forward in the Name of the Lord."  
 "I can do all things" — easy or difficult, great or small, all that I am given to do — "through Christ Who strengtheneth me."  
 [the closing words from Mary Sumner, Her Life and work by Mrs Horace Porter.]



Mary Sumner Day August 9th.

*After the harvest comes the new life, that springs from it. The golden grain is ingathered, not merely to be stored in safety but to be made into a new life - force to give strength to those that shall sow and reap in days to come.*

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Also information and family picture from website [www.muwinchester.org.uk/history-of-mothers-union/mary-sumner/](http://www.muwinchester.org.uk/history-of-mothers-union/mary-sumner/)



The Sumner Family



*All this day .O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do though by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.*

*Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer*

Mary Sumner eventually saw Mothers' Union become a worldwide organisation, and was to live long enough to know that the Mothers' Union had held its first Conference of Overseas Workers in 1920. She passed away on August 11th 1921. She is buried with her husband in the gardens at the rear of Winchester Cathedral. The inscription on the tombstone reads:

*In Memory of  
 George Henry Sumner, Bishop  
 Born July 1824, Died 1909  
 and of his wife  
 Mary Elizabeth Sumner  
 Born December 1829, Died August 1921  
 I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me  
 Write Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord  
 from henceforth.  
 Here, saith the Spirit, they may rest from their labours,*