

**MARY JOHN GOREE
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY
SCHOLARSHIP**

David J. Vandermeulen

President

Mary John Goree Las Animas County Scholarship Foundation

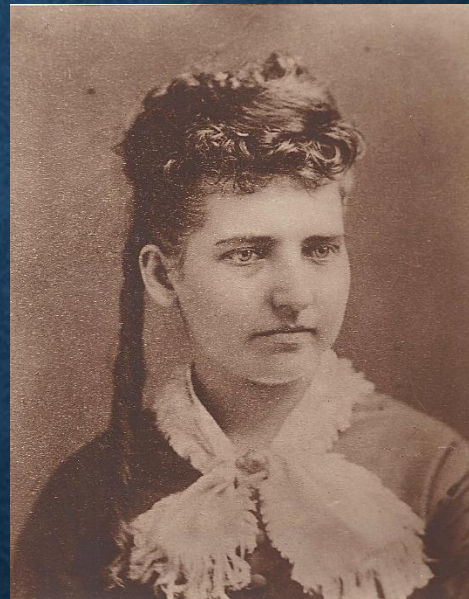
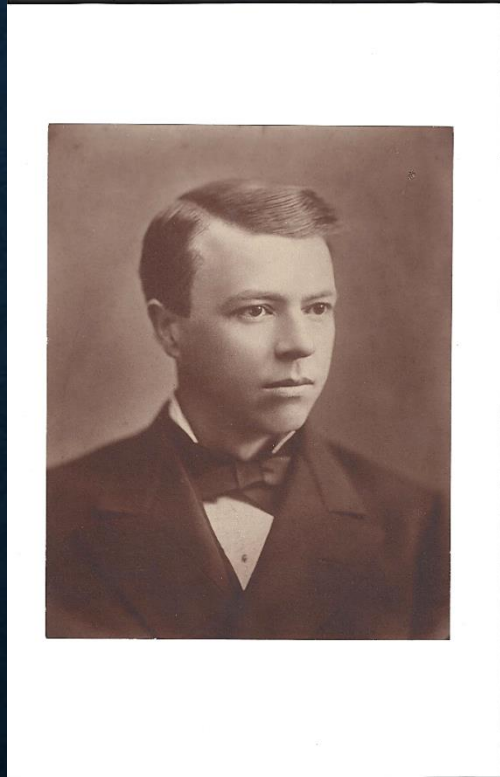
WHO AM I?

- I'm the grandson of William M. John, who established the Mary John Goree Scholarship at Princeton University.
- I grew up in Southern California.
- I graduated from Princeton in 1981, majoring in history.
- I received a law degree from the University of Chicago and spent a number of years practicing tax law in Washington, D. C.
- Eventually I changed careers, entered graduate school in American history at the University of Virginia, where I earned my Ph.D.
- I live in New Orleans, Louisiana, and serve as the president of the Mary John Goree Las Animas County Scholarship Foundation.
- I've served on the Princeton Goree Scholarship Advisory Board since 1982.
- My email is dvandermeulen@sprynet.com.

THE JOHN FAMILY IN LAS ANIMAS COUNTY



JAMES MADISON JOHN AND CHARLOTTE AMANDA MESTREZAT



SETTLING IN THE “QUAINT LITTLE ADOBE HAMLET” OF TRINIDAD

- James M. John (1849-1914) was born near Morgantown, West Virginia and moved to Chicago in the early 1870s to attend law school.
- Just as he was about to start practicing law, he contracted tuberculosis.
- Told he would die within a year unless he moved to a warmer, drier climate, he headed west, taking the stage coach along the Santa Fe Trail. Years later, he would fondly recall when “upon a beautiful moonlight night” in October of 1876, he first looked down upon the “quaint little adobe hamlet” of Trinidad.
- In 1878, he married Charlotte Amanda Mestrezat, a young woman from a small Pennsylvania town just a few miles north of where he had grown up.

BUILDING A NEW LIFE IN LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

- His health having improved, James M. John opened a law practice in Trinidad.
- A specialist in water rights, he developed many irrigation projects east of Trinidad, including the John Flood Ditch that bears his name.
- He served one term in the Colorado State Senate and two terms as mayor of Trinidad.
- He became active in cattle ranching, eventually owning several properties in Colorado and New Mexico, including the summer pastureland on Fishers Peak Mesa that is now known as the James M. John State Wildlife Area.

THE NEXT GENERATION: WILLIAM M. JOHN AND MARY JOHN GOREE



GROWING UP IN LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

- James and Charlotte John had two children:
- Mary Elizabeth John, born in 1879, and
- William Mestrezat John, born in 1888.



WILLIAM MESTREZAT JOHN

- Graduate of Trinidad High School
- Inspired by two older cousins who were alumni, he decided to attend Princeton University.
- Graduated from Princeton in 1910 – one of six students from west of the Mississippi in a class of 500.
- Later he became a respected novelist and short-story writer, winning the prestigious O. Henry Award for the best American short story written in 1930.
- Many of his literary works were set in a fictional locale known as the “Tumbleweed Valley” that bears a striking resemblance to the “Sunflower Valley” in Las Animas County, located between a larger town he called Dawson and a smaller town he called Hopeville.



William M. John at Princeton

circa 1930



William M. John,

**OUR SISTER SCHOLARSHIP:
THE MARY JOHN GOREE
SCHOLARSHIP
AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**

WILLIAM M. JOHN'S VISION

- His sister, Mary John Goree, died in 1944.
- As he contemplated a suitable memorial for her, he remembered with gratitude that his father had managed to live for nearly 40 years in Las Animas County after being given less than a year to live and that his family prospered greatly during that time.
- He also recalled with fondness his years at Princeton and the experiences inside and outside the classroom that had opened up his world.
- This led him to conclude that the best way to memorialize his sister would be to create a scholarship for Las Animas County students to share his experience of attending Princeton University, one of the world's great universities and one that many Las Animas County students would not otherwise consider or think they could afford.
- In doing so at a time when, unlike today, the student body at Princeton was dominated by graduates of East Coast private schools, Mr. John was sending a powerful message to the young people of Las Animas County that if they worked hard and excelled in their studies, they could compete with anyone.

HIS VISION BECOMES REALITY

- In 1947, Mr. John reached an agreement with Princeton for a scholarship for Las Animas County students to go into effect upon his death. The scholarship was to be administered by Princeton, the funds were to be held as part of Princeton's endowment, and Princeton would select the recipients as part of its normal admissions process.
- Consistent with Mr. John's vision of the Goree Scholarship as a prize that would reward academic excellence, it carries a guaranteed minimum award of full tuition and fees with the possibility of additional financial aid based upon need.
- Since Mr. John's death in 1962, 29 Las Animas County students have graduated from Princeton and 1 is currently a student at Princeton. No student attending Princeton under the Goree Scholarship has ever failed to receive a degree, fully vindicating Mr. John's belief in what the young people of Las Animas County can accomplish.

A NEW CHAPTER

- In 2014, the Superior Court of New Jersey, with the full support of the attorneys general of Colorado and New Jersey, approved a plan setting aside a portion of the Goree Scholarship Fund at Princeton for Las Animas County residents to be used for scholarships at four-year colleges and universities (but not junior colleges or trade schools) other than Princeton.
- The Mary John Goree Scholarship at Princeton University continues to be available for Las Animas County residents with no change in eligibility requirements, selection process, or rules governing the determination of the amount of awards. It continues to be administered by Princeton University. Students may apply for both scholarships!

OUR MOST RECENT CLASS

- Antonio Arant, Trinidad High School, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- Averie Navarette, Hoehne High School, University of Colorado Boulder
- Joshua Waller, Hoehne High School, Kansas State University
- Finn Warner, Branson High School, Middlebury College

COLLEGES ATTENDED BY OUR SCHOLARS

- ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY (2)
 - ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
 - COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY (5)
 - EMERSON COLLEGE
 - JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY (DENVER)
 - KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
 - MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
 - MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
 -
- NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY
 - SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES AND TECHNOLOGY (2)
 - UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER (3)
 - UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS
 - UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER
 - UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PEMBROKE
 - UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO
 - UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
 - WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THE MARY JOHN GOREE LAS ANIMAS COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

- Colorado nonprofit corporation and private foundation
- Governed by a board of 7 directors:
 - David J. Vandermeulen, J.D., Ph.D., President
 - Trevor S. Brown
 - Richard J. Compton
 - John E. Garcia
 - Kathleen Griego
 - Patricia McFarland, Secretary
 - Amy Newnam, J.D., Treasurer
- Guided by William M. John's belief that if Las Animas County students work hard and excel in their studies, they can compete with anyone and should never impose limits on their dreams.
- Not involved in the administration of the Mary John Goree Scholarship at Princeton University.
- In its business dealings and its scholarship selection process, the Foundation maintains a strict policy of avoiding conflicts of interest, or the appearance thereof. Members of the Foundation's board of directors are required to refer potential conflicts of interest to the other members of the board for a determination as to whether an actual conflict of interest exists.

WHERE THE SCHOLARSHIP CAN BE USED

- It may be used at any four-year college or university in the United States (other than Princeton University).
- It may not be used at junior colleges.
- It may not be used at trade schools.
- When finalists appear before the Board for their personal interview, they must submit a list of up to eight (8) colleges and universities. Should a finalist be selected as a recipient, that student may only use his/her Las Animas Goree Scholarship at one of the colleges and universities on the list the finalist submitted at the time of his/her interview PLUS the Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University Fort Collins or the University of Colorado Boulder. If a finalist wants to use his/her Scholarship at a campus of Colorado State University or the University of Colorado other than Fort Collins or Boulder, such as Denver, Colorado Springs or Pueblo, that college must be included on the list the finalist submits at the time of the interview.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

- High school senior applying to college in 2020-2021
- Bona fide, legal and actual resident of Las Animas County, Colorado at the time of selection
- Citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- Plan to enroll fulltime in a fully accredited four-year college or university in the United States

WHO'S ELIGIBLE? (CONTINUED)

- **MUST** have an **UNWEIGHTED** cumulative grade point average for the first three years of high school of 3.00 or higher on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent; **AND**
- **MUST** have earned a qualifying score on either (1) the SAT (combined evidence-based reading and writing and mathematics), (2) the ACT (composite) **OR** the PSAT (combined evidence-based reading and writing and mathematics) for the student's **UNWEIGHTED** cumulative GPA for the first three years of high school as set forth in the Eligibility Table found on the Foundation's website, www.gorescholarship.org. Essay scores are not required.
- Relatives of the board of directors **ARE NOT** eligible.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP? AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS

- Students apply for the Scholarship through an online application process.
- The online application will open on October 15 and can be accessed through the Foundation's website, www.gorescholarship.org.
- The application must be submitted by 3:00 PM Central on December 1.
- The Board of the Foundation will review applications and supporting documents. Applicants will be notified if they have been selected as finalists by February 15.
- The Board will conduct interviews of the finalists on March 7. Finalists will be informed whether interviews will be in-person or by Zoom at the time of their selection.
- The recipient(s) will be announced on March 15. A list of alternate(s) may be created.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Students are required to submit a transcript from each high school they have attended, beginning with 9th grade through 11th grade, as well as a transcript from any junior or four-year college where they have taken course(s), if applicable, through the end of their 11th grade year, unless grades from such course(s) are included on a high school transcript.
- The SAT is required, but students who have taken the ACT, SAT Subject Tests, and/or Advanced Placement Tests may submit those scores if they so choose. Students may submit photostatic copies or screen shots of their test scores from the reports they received from the testing service that show their name. The Board will also accept test scores appearing on a student's high school transcript.
- Students may submit supporting documents with their application until the application deadline of Tuesday, December 1 at 3:00 PM Central. If students have not submitted their supporting documents by the application deadline, supporting documents may be submitted by their counselor with the counselor's recommendation until the counselor's recommendation deadline of Thursday, December 3 at 3:00 PM Central. All supporting documents must be received by 3:00 PM Central on December 3.

SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR 2020-2021 # 1

- Students who have been unable to take the SAT in time to provide their score by the December 3 deadline for supporting documents may take the SAT on December 5. If they do so, they will have until December 23 to submit their SAT score. The College Board has indicated that multiple-choice scores for the December 5 administration will be available December 18. We do not require essay scores so you do not need to wait for them to be available to submit your score. Although the application will close on December 1, students will still have the ability to submit scores through the Scholarship America hub.

SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR 2020-2021 # 2

- Students who take the SAT on December 5 have to submit their application prior to taking the SAT. This could lead to a situation where a student would have to complete their application without knowing whether they have met our eligibility standards. To enable some students who might find themselves in this situation to know sooner whether they have met our eligibility standards, the Foundation will accept PSAT scores FOR ELIGIBILITY PURPOSES only. PSAT scores must be submitted by the December 3 deadline and must meet or exceed the score required for the student's cumulative unweighted GPA as set forth in the Eligibility Table. A student who submits a PSAT score that satisfies the eligibility requirement must still take the SAT no later than December 5. However, a student who has established eligibility under the PSAT will not lose their eligibility if their SAT score is lower than a qualifying score according to the Eligibility Table.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- We require two recommendations. One must be from your counselor. The other must be from a teacher who has taught you in 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade.
- We're pleased to announce that recommendations can now be uploaded directly. It is no longer necessary or possible to email or mail recommendations.
- All recommendations must be submitted by 3:00 PM Central on Thursday, December 3.

WHAT ARE THE SELECTION CRITERIA?

- **Academics:** Students are required to submit a transcript from each high school they have attended, beginning with 9th grade, as well as a transcript from any junior or four-year college where they have taken course(s), if applicable, unless grades from such course(s) are included on a high school transcript; collectively, transcripts must include grades for all courses taken from the beginning of 9th grade through the end of 11th grade. Senior year grades are not required and are not considered.
- **Tests:** Performance on tests designed to measure ability and aptitude for academic work. The SAT is required, but students who have taken the ACT, SAT Subject Tests scores and/or Advanced Placement Tests may submit those scores if they so choose;
- **Recommendations:** one and only one evaluation from a counselor and one and only one evaluation from a teacher who has taught the applicant during 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade is required;
- **Leadership:** Evidence of leadership in and service to the school and the larger community;
- **Special Talent and Non-academic Achievement:** Extracurricular activities and special talents, including [but not limited to] athletics, the arts, speech, student government and employment;
- **Character:** Strength of character, including concern for others as shown by service to school, religious organization and/or community, commitment to a cause greater than oneself and overcoming obstacles; and
- **Readiness for a Demanding Four-Year College Education:** Extent to which (a) the student's contemplated major and/or career path require a four-year college education (and cannot be satisfied at a junior college or a trade school or with only a high school diploma), (b) the student has thoughtfully assembled a list of colleges to which the student intends to apply in which the colleges represent a range of difficulty of admission for that particular student and that have reputable programs in the student's field (s) of interest, and (c) the student has demonstrated the intellectual curiosity that will enable and motivate the student to make the best possible use of the academic resources at the college the student decides to attend.

FINAL NOTES ABOUT THE SELECTION PROCESS AND A WORD ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP AMERICA

- Every year our selection process has been very competitive and we expect the same this year.
- Our Board has contracted with Scholarship America, a nonprofit provider of scholarship services, for assistance in administration of the application process. The Board is responsible for establishing the scholarship process and the selection criteria, reviewing scholarship applications, interviewing applicants and making all scholarship award decisions. Scholarship America oversees the administrative details of the application process including maintaining the e-application, communicating with applicants regarding receipt of the application, forwarding the applications to the Board and maintaining the records of the scholarship process. Appropriate security features have been put into place to maintain the confidentiality of information submitted during the application process.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- All recipients, (first-time and renewing) whose total estimated costs for tuition, fees, living expenses (room and board) and miscellaneous expenses (transportation, books, supplies and personal expenses), as published by their college, ARE LESS than the amount of Princeton University's tuition and fees for the year of the award (\$51,870 in 2019-2020) will receive a full ride scholarship award for tuition, fees, living expenses and miscellaneous expenses without regard to the recipient's or their family's financial circumstances.
- If the total cost of attending a college exceeds the cost of tuition and fees at Princeton (\$51,870 in 2019-2020), the recipient will receive a minimum award equal to the greater of (a) the cost of tuition and fees at Princeton or (b) the cost of tuition and fees at the college the recipient is attending. Minimum awards are applied first to tuition and fees and then to living and miscellaneous expenses. If, after the application of the minimum award, the student still has unmet living and/or miscellaneous expenses, the student may apply for a need-based award with respect to those unmet living and/or miscellaneous expenses.

MORE ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- In effect, this means that all recipients who attend public colleges or universities within Colorado receive full ride scholarships for tuition, fees, living expenses and miscellaneous expenses.
- All awards are at the discretion of the Board and will be based, in part, on the funds available for spending, commitment to current recipients and the size of the awards.
- The number of the awards is determined annually by the Board. The Foundation has awarded as many as 6 scholarships (Class of 2018) and as few as 3 scholarships (Class of 2019) in a year, but most years, including 2020-2021, we will likely award 4 or 5 scholarships.
- Scholarships are for one year, but are renewable for up to three additional years or until a bachelor's degree is earned, which ever occurs first.
- Payments are generally made directly to the educational institution of the recipient, although it is possible that some payments may be made directly to the recipient.

WHAT RECIPIENTS NEED TO KNOW

- Recipients have until May 4 to notify the Foundation that the recipient is accepting the Foundation's offer of a scholarship and what college or university the recipient intends to attend. If the recipient's minimum award doesn't cover all of the recipient's living and/or miscellaneous expenses and the recipient wishes to be considered for a need-based award of funds in addition to the minimum award, the recipient must provide the Foundation with financial information that is specified on the Foundation's website. The Foundation does not solicit financial information from applicants during the selection process.
- The scholarship recipient is required to sign a written agreement setting forth the terms of the scholarship, including (i) the specific purpose of the scholarship; (ii) its amount and duration; (iii) conditions and procedures for renewal; (iv) the institution to which it will be paid; (v) requirements for reports, if any, including the due dates for such reports; and (vi) any other expectations of the recipient during the scholarship period.

WHAT RECIPIENTS NEED TO KNOW (CONTINUED)

- Scholarship recipients must submit transcripts at the end of each quarter/semester. Awards are renewable for up to three additional years or until a bachelor's degree is earned whichever occurs first. A formal policy with respect to the renewal of scholarships is posted on the Foundation's website. While there are provisions for warnings and probation, the gist of the policy is that a student who maintains at least a 3.0 GPA on both a quarterly/semester and cumulative basis will not have to worry about having his/her scholarship renewed.
- Policies on transferring, study abroad and deferral can now be found on the Foundation's website, www.gorescholarship.org.

ADVICE TO YOUNGER STUDENTS

- A successful applicant's curriculum will be strong in traditional college-preparatory courses in the core subjects of English, mathematics, foreign language, social studies and science (including biology, physics and chemistry). The Board believes that traditional college-preparatory courses should not be neglected in favor of vocational courses or elective courses outside of the core subjects that are more appropriately taken in college.
- Keep pass-fail classes to a minimum. When reviewing transcripts, the Board is assessing the readiness of an applicant to undertake a demanding college curriculum. It is difficult for the Board to be confident that an applicant has the necessary readiness if his/her transcript contains a significant number of pass-fail courses, particularly if those pass-fail courses are in the core subject areas of English, mathematics, social studies, science and foreign language.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Go to our website, www.gorescholarship.org. This PowerPoint and tonight's PowerPoint on the Princeton Goree Scholarship can be found on the website.
- Follow us on Facebook!
- If you have questions or encounter difficulty with the online application, you may email Scholarship America at lasanimasgoree@scholarsapply.org or call toll-free 1-800-537-4180 and ask for the Mary John Goree Las Animas County Scholarship Program.

**BE A PART OF WILLIAM M. JOHN'S VISION FOR
THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF LAS ANIMAS COUNTY!**

