

Message from First Colony Governor, Helen Rancan

I have been to Plymouth only once. It was during this time of year, before the area awoke from its winter sleep and became renewed for its annual tourist season. My visit was to fill in a blank, to secure one small lineage proof from an old book on Augusta, Maine records. The staff at the Mayflower Society's Research Library were extremely helpful and were able to provide me that missing link. In some ways, I felt like a student of history, connecting an old wedding record to my own. There was time for me to stop by the famous rock, take a few pictures, comment on its location and surrounding portico and then I was on my way back to New Jersey. Fast forward to this March. I follow on Instagram a particular West Point women's sports team that just so happened to stop by that same rock and take a team photo as they traveled north to Boston for a weekend of competition. From their posting, I was struck by an observation.

These young Army Cadets immediately recognized that the gothic design of the Mayflower Rock Portico was from the same architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, which in 1896 designed West Point's very own Cullum Hall. That campus building currently houses many Cadet clubs and is currently being renovated to become the new home for the US Military Academy Archives. These Cadets made a link from 1620, thru 1896, to 2024. They are just like us, making connections to the past, thru the present, to the future.

I am honored to be your First Colony Governor at this present time, with a nod to the past and a shared vision for the future. I encourage your attendance at our spring luncheon (discussed herein) and I look forward to meeting many of you then.

Helen Rancan
First Colony Governor
Spring 2024