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## First Innkeeper of Boston, Mass.

Samuel Cole was born in England, where he married Ann ( - ). They came to Massachusetts in the Winthrop fleet of 1630. Ann ( - ) Cole died soon. Samuel married second, widow Margaret Green; married third, 16 October 1660, Ann, widow of Capt. Robert Keane. Samuel Cole's will of 21 December 1666 was proved 13 February 1667.

Samuel Cole took the oath of Freeman 18 May 1661 in Boston, served as a Selectman from 1653 to 1657; was a special assessor in 1634. He was one of the "richer inhabitants" who contributed to the maintenance of a free school master in 1636. He was the first member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company who appeared without a military title prefixed to his name and was one of its charter members in 1637.

"13 of 10 1652, Mr. Samuel Cole with two others wear chosen to receive the several sums of money which any in this Towne will underwrit, towards the maintenance of the president and fellows or pore schollers of Hervert College."

In the list of taverns and their owners, in Old Boston Taverns and Tavern Clubs, by Samuel Adams Drake, page 105, is found:

Cole, Samuel Cole's inn, west side of Washington Street, corner of Williams Court, site of Thompson's Spa. In 1633-34 Samuel Cole set up the first house of common entertainment. In 1635 he was licensed to keep an ordinary, and in 1637-38 had leave to sell his house for an inn to Robert Sedgwick. In 1646 James Penn was licensed here. Lt. William Phillips acquired the property, and in 1656-57 mortgages "The Ship Tavern." He conveys it to Capt. Thomas Savage in 1660. The later owners were Ephraim Savage, 1677-78; Zachariah Trescott, 1712; Nicholas Bouve, 1715; John Comrin, 1742; Jonathan Mason, 1742; James Lloyd, 1763, in whose family it remained many years.

On the south side of Faneuil Hall is a passageway through which one may pass into Merchants' row. It is Corn Court, a name known to few of the present day, but in the days gone by as familiar as the Corn market, with which it was connected. In the center of this court stands the oldest tavern in New England. It was opened March 4, 1634, by Samuel Cole. It was surrounded by spacious grounds, which commanded a view of the harbor and its shipping, for at that time the tide covered the spot where Faneuil Hall now stands. It was a popular resort from the beginning and was frequented by many foreigners of note.

- Abstracted from "Samuel Cole, First Innkeeper of Boston," by M. Elizabeth Gilmore in Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, March 1977.

Submitted by Ross Byron Johnson  
77-36

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"There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn."

attributed to Samuel Johnson in  
Boswell's Life of Johnson, 1776