

**CARVER, 2007**  
**BOOK 34583, PAGE 108**

**COLES' MILLS**

**Carver Mills run by eight generations of the Cole family**

**Acquired by the town for open space, recreational use and water supply protection**

The first Cole mill, a grist mill, was established in 1707 by John Cole, while Carver was still part of Plympton. The area was then called the Lakenham District. The property had been owned by the Cole family since a king's grant in the 1640's.

From 1707 until 1948, eight generations of the Cole family operated their mills and industries. Grist mills, up-and-down mills, wool carding and basket making were operated on that site.

The last Cole to operate a mill at the site in North Carver was Frank H. Cole. He began making boxes for shipping cranberries to other parts of the country from the North Carver Railroad Station, which was in operation from 1891 to 1930. Frank Cole's box mill was destroyed by fire in 1947. After the fire, a cement building was erected where the manufacture of boxes continued until 1948 when cellophane packaging became the new method of shipping cranberries.

In 2007, the Town of Carver purchased two parcels of land which was part of the old mill property from the heirs of Frank Cole. Parcel A is used for open space and recreational purposes, and Parcel B is primarily used for water supply protection. A well was drilled on Parcel B and now supplies water to sections of North Carver. These properties were purchased with grant money and Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds.

**Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.**  
**and**

**the Carver Historical Commission**

**Constance Shaw, Chairman; Peg Blackwell, Vice Chairman; Barbara Butler, Clerk; Jan Tracey, Treasurer**  
**Members: Sylvia Best, Jason Pecorelli and Russell Mazzilli**