

Moseley's Knitting Mill



Moseley's employees celebrate Needham's bicentennial in 1911

The Moseley Company, which employed about 50 people, was one of the largest of the Needham knitting mills, second in size only to Carter's. It was founded in the 1870s by brothers John and William Moseley, who had come to Needham from England. Moseley's specialized in children's underwear and clothing, marketed under the "Tiny-Wear" label. John was also a real estate developer and a Deacon in the Baptist Church. William, who left the business for a career as an attorney, was Auditor, Selectman, and Town Counsel, and a Vice President of the Needham Cooperative Bank, before serving as Moderator in Town Meeting for more than 25 years.

The Moseleys' father was also a knitter, working out of a shop in his home to make elastic stockings. His sons started out their own business by renting a portion of Carter's mill, but then expanded by purchasing their own land across the street, on the site of an earlier factory that made doors and moldings. Moseley later moved his mill to Needham Center and his old mill was taken over by the Dorset Knitting Company, owned by the Walton family.