

Parish/township: MOSSER

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SOCIAL HISTORY

There is little record of communal activities in Mosser, probably reflecting the small size of the community, its inhabitants scattered in dispersed farms and hamlets, and the absence of a focal point provided by a parish church or resident gentry family.

Education. The reader at Mosser chapel in 1653 taught a school there, in which he had 24 pupils, each paying 12d. per quarter year.¹ In the eighteenth century, the children of several Mosser families attended school at the Quaker meeting house across the fields at Pardshaw Hall, their fathers entering into partnership to hire a schoolmaster, who was not always a Quaker.² It seems likely that the school served both conformists and Dissenters. In 1774 the first nominee to the curacy of the rebuilt Mosser chapel was described by the inhabitants of the chapelry as ‘our present schoolmaster’ and the Anglicans proposed building their own school at Pardshaw Hall the following year, but were prevailed upon by the Quakers not to do so.³ In 1792 Mary Porter of Mosser Mains left the sum of £100, the interest of which, amounting to £3 per annum, was to be applied to the education of poor children of Mosser chapelry whose parents did not receive parish relief.⁴ In 1818 it was reported that there was a small school in Mosser, endowed with the income of the charity, in which 30 children were taught.⁵ However, by 1821 the interest was paid to a schoolmaster at Pardshaw, in Dean parish, for the education of three poor children from Mosser.⁶

¹ *Journal of the Life, Labours, Travels and Sufferings ... of ... John Banks* (London, 1712), pp. 2-3.

² Fletcher, *Diary*, 107 (16 Aug. 1761), 127 (29 Aug. 1762), 193 (10 Nov. 1766), 242 (7 Oct. 1771), 274-5 (29 and 31 Oct. 1773). Jonathan Wilson, schoolmaster at Pardshaw Hall 1766-71, was an Anglican: *ibid*, 451.

³ CRO, DRC/10/26, nomination paper 28 Jun. 1774; Fletcher, *Diary*, 304-5.

⁴ Bulmer *Dir. Cumb.* 1901, p. 739.

⁵ PP (HC) 1819 [224], *Digest of parochial returns made to select committee appointed to inquire into the education of the poor*, p. 116.

⁶ PP (HC) 1821 [159] *Report of commission for inquiring concerning charities*, p. 53.