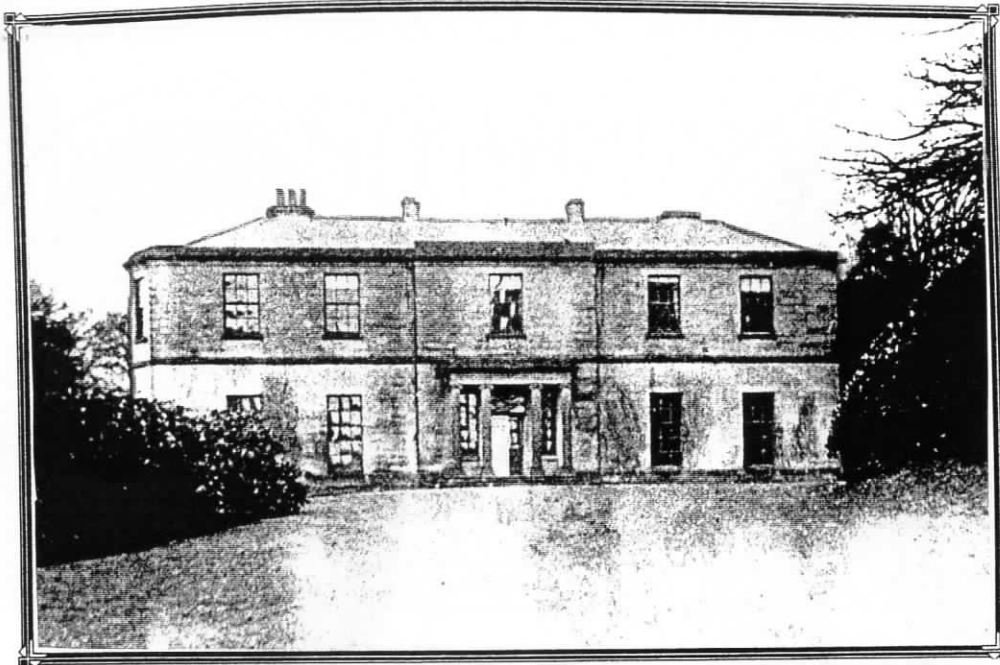


# LIFE AT LEAGRAM HALL



Leagram Hall was built on the site of the lodge used by the keeper of the medieval deer park in Leagram. It was mainly built of timber and was altered in the sixteenth century. Rebuilding in stone began in 1775 when the Weld family inherited the Stonyhurst Estate (including Leagram). It was rebuilt again in 1822 when George Weld and his family came to live at Leagram. The Hall (pictured above) was demolished in 1955 and a replacement was built in 1965.

For over a hundred years while the Hall was occupied by the Welds, and then the Berkeleys and the Berkeley Welds, a succession of servants worked there. Some of the staff were from local families and did not "live in", but a large proportion came from other parts of Britain, especially from Ireland, and quite a number married and "settled down" here.

The pictures on the following pages are taken from an album which formerly belonged to Mrs May Whittaker nee Marsden. Most of the photographs had been identified by Mrs Whittaker.

Many of the pictures had been collected by her mother, Maria Marsden nee Sanders. She came to Leagram Hall from France to work as the children's nurse, probably in the 1880's. Her employers were Mr and Mrs G.F.H. Berkeley who married in 1879.

Mrs Berkeley, was formerly Frances Weld, the younger of the twin daughters of John Weld of Leagram Hall. Maria looked after their three children:- John, Francis and daughter Matilda (who became a nun). When the children were older Maria worked as lady's maid to Mrs Berkeley.

Pictured to the left:-

May Whittaker, nee Marsden, 1891-1981, at Leagram Hall farmhouse (former priest's house behind Leagram Hall) on August 29th 1923. May, a trained confectioner, was employed as children's nurse to the Clifton family at Lytham. The gentleman in the picture is a Mr A. Evans.

