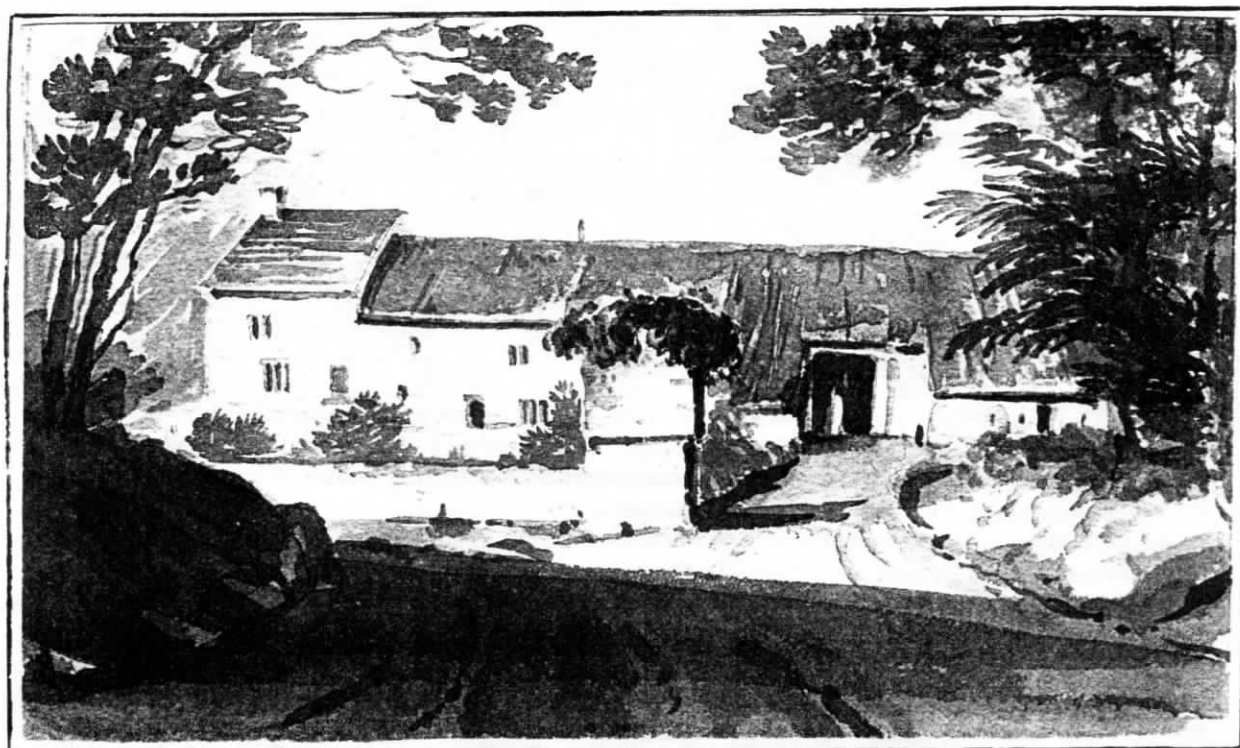


LOCAL PAINTINGS BY

John Weld (1813 - 1888) was a talented artist. He worked mostly in water colours or pen and ink, and his favourite subjects were nature studies and buildings, specially churches and abbeys and architectural details from them. Many of his paintings were of continental scenes, in Italy and Belgium in particular. He also painted famous buildings in Britain mainly in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Scotland.

We are fortunate in that he painted every farm and cottage on the Weld estate in Leagram and Little Bowland, and one in Chipping. These local paintings were probably done about 1840, or perhaps just a little earlier as many show buildings with thatch. The hurricane of January 1839 is said to have damaged all the thatch in the district and the roofs afterwards were slated. During the last century the estate totally rebuilt some farmhouses and his paintings are the only record of the old buildings. The pictures are in various shades of grey ink wash with black pen work for detail and occasional touches of white paint for highlight.

Three of the local scenes are reproduced here with the kind permission of the Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston, where most of John Weld's paintings are held. The Art Curator's help in locating the pictures is gratefully acknowledged. Another smaller collection of John Weld's paintings is at the Lancashire Record Office.



Dairy Barn Farm.