

BATY FAMILY
Lot 18 Concession 2 Westminster

In 1819, two brothers, Adam and Thomas Baty came from Northumberland County, England, with Robert Telfer and his family to New York. Thomas Baty had married Margaret Telfer in England. They had two little daughters buried at sea on the voyage to America. They secured employment in New York, but still longing to possess land of their own, the Baty and Telfer families started for Canada in 1820. They crossed the Niagara River at Lewiston on flat boats, then made their way to the "Forks" on the Thames. The two families decided to stay together and settled on the 9th concession of London Township; Thomas and Margaret Baty on Lot 27.

In 1829, Thomas Baty and his brother Adam, went to Westminster, to Pond Mills, where they bought the water mill, and later the farm which still remains in the Baty family.

Thomas and Margaret Baty now had 2 sons, Robert and Arthur. Arthur Baty, who married Elizabeth Whillans built the big white brick house on the farm, then a few years later, he sold the farm to Robert and moved to Kansas.

In the early history of Pond Mills the year 1857 stands out as a year of early frost and crop failure. One of the finest stories is told of Thomas Baty, the miller, who refused cash sales for his flour, in order that he could supply food and seed to the needy families in the district, to be paid for when they could afford to.

Robert Baty married Elizabeth Telfer. They had 3 sons - Thomas, Adam and Arthur. Thomas was the eldest, came by the farm home in Westminster, Adam living near by. Arthur married Cicily Telfer and settled at Maundomin, later moving to the 9th concession of London Township. Then in 1901 he bought the Pond Mills farm from his brother Thomas who moved to a lot at the corner of the Base Line and Wortley Road. Arthur Baty was a great reader and he was always ready to try new ideas. He owned the first cream separator in the community. The Baty family were keenly interested in the community and church affairs. When it was decided to build the Presbyterian Church on the 3rd concession, the Baty family donated part of the land for the church property. Thomas Baty was an elder of the First Westminster Church as was Adam Baty, Robert T. Baty and at the present time, Robert W. Baty.