

EDWARD EDWIN DODDS

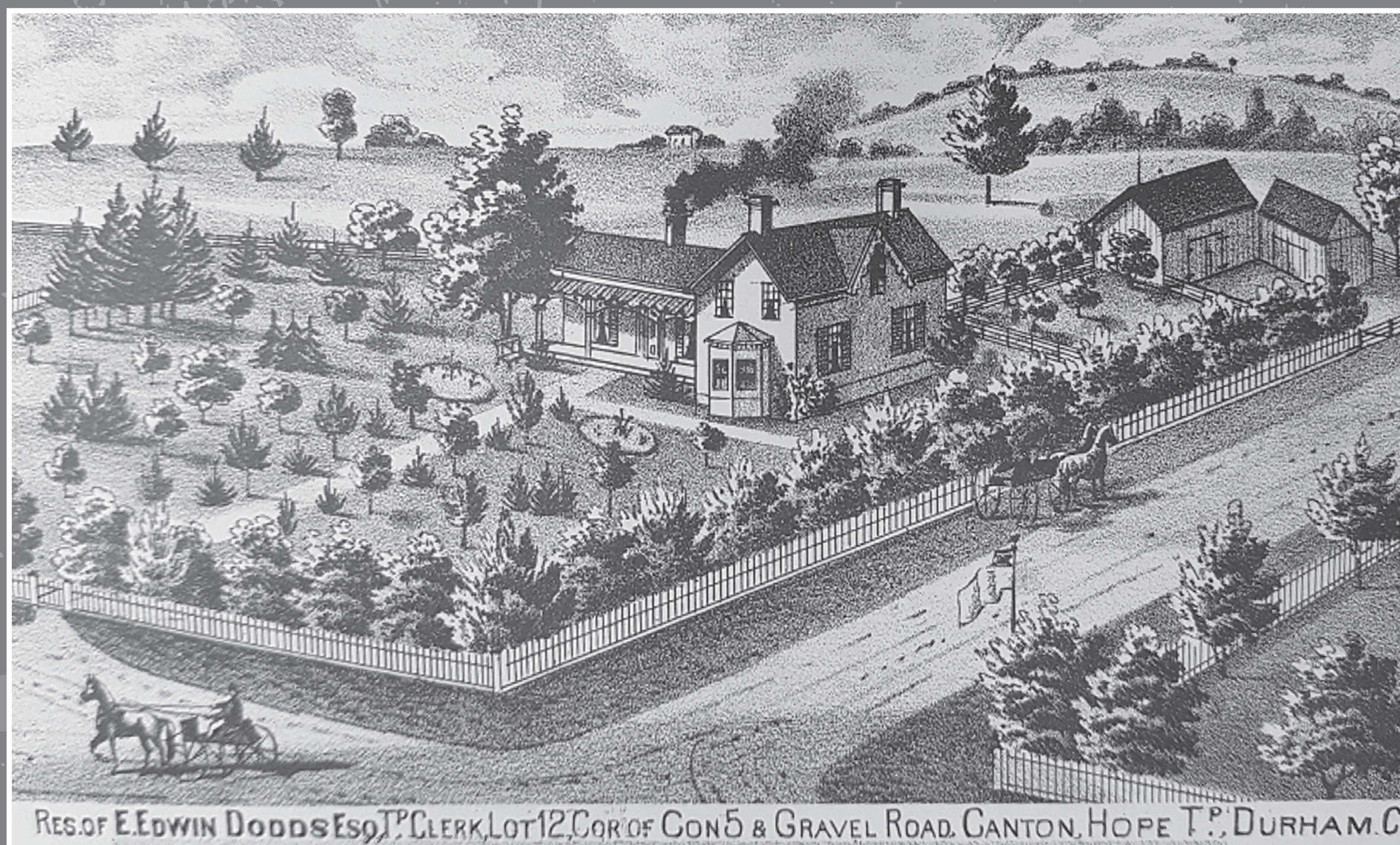
CIVIL WAR HERO -
COMMUNITY BUILDER

EDWARD ARRIVES

Edward Edwin Dodds was just **14 and had little choice** in life when he emigrated with his father Thomas, mother Sarah, and three siblings. Arriving from Cheshire, England, in 1859, the family **settled in Hope Township**, Ontario, and ten years later Thomas purchased a 100 acre farm at Lot 12, Concession 5.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

But **by the time** he was 19, Edward was man enough to make a major choice of his own. It was the choice made by some 33,000 - 50,000 other men from British North America, to join the Union Army in the American Civil War - to fight for the liberation of slaves, for adventure or just for curiosity.



Union Cavalry Sergeant

Edward took a steamer across Lake Ontario to Rochester, New York. Here he **enlisted on July 31, 1863 with the Union Army**, then was **officially mustered in as a private with Company C of the 21st New York Volunteer Cavalry** (also known as the Griswold Light Cavalry). The 21st Cavalry saw action at multiple battles in the Shenandoah Valley Campaigns of 1864, and on May 1 of that year **Edward was promoted to the rank of sergeant**. Shortly after, he was wounded in action at Bolivar Heights near Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

Within six weeks, Edward had **rejoined his regiment in the fighting at Ashby Gap, Virginia**. During the minor engagement known as the Battle of Ashby's Gap, with a small group of Union cavalrymen, including members of the 21st New York, he attempted to cross the Gap. Their plan was to disrupt the movement of Confederate Lieutenant-General Jubal Early's army by attacking supply trains bringing up the rear of Early's forces.