

**Injured soldiers in Washington, D.C., during the Civil War**

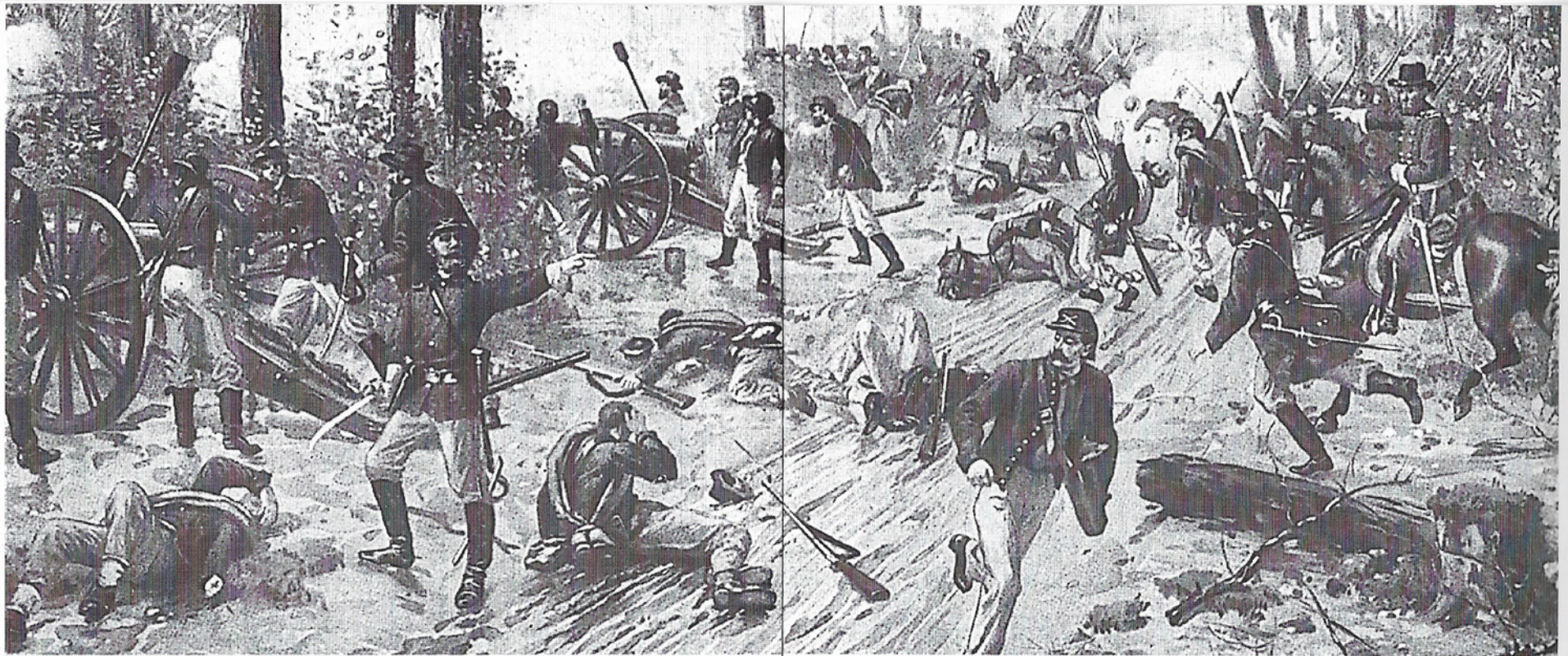
The Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865. The casualties of this war consisted of more than 620,000 killed and more than one million wounded, more American losses than in any other war. Of the millions who fought in this war, many were young boys and some were even young girls.



**Austin Johnson, a young soldier killed at the Battle of Gettysburg, 1862**

### **The Boys' War**

Some have called the Civil War "The Boys' War." More than a million boys eighteen and under served for the North in the Union army. Of those, more than 100,000 were fifteen and younger. Many thousands of boys also served in the South.



### The Battle of Shiloh

Elisha Stockwell ran away from his home in Wisconsin to be a drummer for the Union army. He was 15 years old. Elisha had tried to enlist with two friends, but his father said no. To his sister, who criticized him for trying to join up, Elisha said: "I'll show you I'm not the little boy you think I am!" But he soon learned the hardships of war.

He wrote home in 1862 after the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee:

"As we lay there and the shells were flying all over us, my thoughts went back to my home, and I thought what a foolish boy I was to run away and get into such a mess as I was in. . . ."

Elisha went back to Wisconsin at the end of the war. Thirty-two men and boys had left his town to fight. Only Elisha and two others survived.