

Wilmer McLean

One of the great ironies of the Civil War regards the story of a grocer named Wilmer McLean. It is often said that the Civil War “started in his front lawn and ended in his front parlor.” On July 21, 1861, the first major battle of the Civil War took place on McLean’s farm in Manassas, Virginia. In the battle, a cannonball tore through his roof, and Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard made the house his headquarters. Concerned about the welfare of his family and business, McLean moved everything to Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, a place he believed would be safe from warfare and battles. To his dismay, however, on April 9, 1865, the war returned to the residence of the McLean family when Lee surrendered to Grant in his front parlor. Following the surrender, Union officers made off with nearly all of McLean’s furniture as souvenirs.

Below are four cells. Make a short (and funny) comic showing the following scenes:

- 1.) Wilmer McLean living happily in his old brick home in Manassas, Virginia.
- 2.) Wilmer McLean assessing the damage to his kitchen after a Union cannonball smashed through the ceiling.
- 3.) Wilmer McLean living happily away from the fighting in remote Appomattox Courthouse
- 4.) Wilmer McLean angrily watching as Union officers take his furniture as souvenirs.
