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Review of "Frontier Farewell: The 18705 and the End of the Old West," By Garrett Wilson

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Sioux spent in Canada. The book was obviously written with a popular audience in mind, but it makes a significant contribution to scholarship on the history of the Canadian West.

Despite its nostalgic title and sentimental passages, *Frontier Farewell* possesses many of the best attributes of popular history. Wilson is strongest when telling stories based on his exhaustive research, his impressive historical sense, and his evocative prose. But thanks to his meticulous approach, his stories present evidence and difficult-to-find details that many historians will not have seen before, making this a fine source book.

It is also interpretively interesting. Not surprisingly, given his general audience, Wilson presents no explicit central thesis, but a clear theme running through the book is that the United States profoundly influenced the history of western Canada during the 1870s. As a result, *Frontier Farewell* offers new perspectives on everything from the transfer of Rupert's Land to Canada, the Manitoba Resistance of 1869-70, and the Numbered Treaties of the 1870s, to the surveys of the Canadian prairies, the coming of the North-West Mounted Police, and the fallout from the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Just about any historian of the Canadian West will disagree with some of Wilson's arguments (and he is often weakest when he tries to tie events in western Canada to broader historical themes), but the implied overall argument about the importance of the United States in western Canadian history is very ably defended.

Unfortunately, because the book was printed on relatively low-quality paper, the many archival illustrations are not reproduced well. Nevertheless, many people—from those who consider themselves history buffs who read purely for entertainment, to professional specialists in the history of the Canadian West who read critically—will find this substantial and inexpensive volume well worth their while.

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Frontier Farewell: The 1870s and the End of the Old West. By Garrett Wilson. Regina, SK: Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina, 2007. xviii + 525 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, chronology, index. \$29.95 paper.

You might just want to buy two copies—one for yourself, and one for a friend. This book by a Regina lawyer turned writer tells the story of the Canadian prairie West from the arrival of the first European explorers to 1881, although most of the book deals with the period beginning in 1869, and five of the twenty-two chapters deal with the events surrounding the time that Sitting Bull and several thousand other