



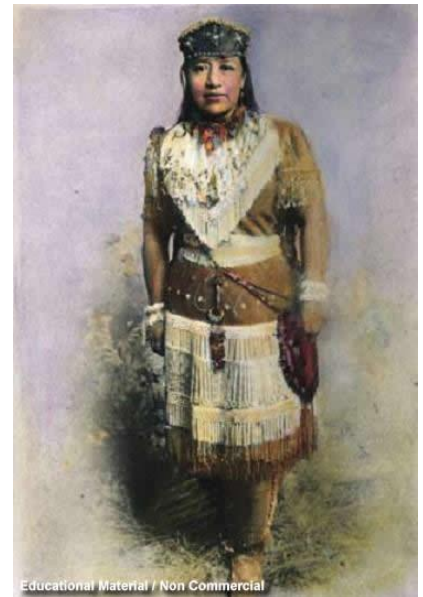
BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins

- Sarah Winnemucca was born in 1844 near Humboldt Lake, NV.
- Sarah's given name is Thocmetony which means shell flower.
- During the mid 1800's, Northern Paiutes and Washos were the only inhabitants of the land that is now part of western Nevada.
- Her grandfather, Chief Truckee, welcomed the arrival of his "white brothers" and helped General John C. Fremont in the Bear War against Mexican control of California. He was respected by many whites because he proved to be a reliable guide for those crossing over the Sierra Mountains.
- Sarah's father, Chief Winnemucca, did not trust the white people and cautioned his own people to keep their distance.
- Sarah was present at the Winnemucca Lake (Mud) Massacre where her infant brother and both of her father's wives died.
- Perhaps hearing these opposite viewpoints served as an omen for the rest of her life, which was spent attempting to interpret the two cultures to each other.
- Sarah was very well educated and learned to read and speak English fluently.
- She leveraged her knowledge of English and her tribal heritage: she became an interpreter for the United States Army after the end of the Pyramid Lake War.
- "This position of power allowed Winnemucca to become a superb diplomat as she heard both sides of the issues between her people and the federal government (2)."
- Sarah was ridiculed by some Paiutes for conversing with the same white people who were oppressing them.
- In 1878, Winnemucca's reputation was improved amongst her tribe when she fought in the Bannock War.
- Sarah wrote an autobiography in 1883, Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims, which describes the conditions of her people.
- She also conducted a nationwide lecture series during which she advocated for her people.



Educational Material / Non Commercial

<http://www.uitablebasintah.org/utahnatives.htm>

Information obtained from:

1. National Women's Hall of Fame, www.greatwomen.org.
2. University of Nevada, Reno, www.unr.edu/wrc/nwhp/biograph/winnemucca.htm.
3. Winnemucca Hopkins, Sarah. Reproduction of Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims. Bishop, CA. Sierra Media, Inc. 1969.



Sarah Winnemucca