

# Sarah Winnemucca

## c. 1844-1891

### USA

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins (born Thocomentony, meaning "Shell Flower") was an important Northern Paiute author, activist and educator who became an advocate for the rights of Native Americans, traveling across the US to tell Anglo-Americans about the plight of her people. She was notable for being the first Native American woman to secure a copyright and to publish in the English language for her book, *Life Among the Paiutes: Their Wrongs and Claims*, an autobiographical account of her people during their first forty years of contact with explorers and settlers. While Sarah delivered nearly 300 lectures throughout major cities of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, seeking to heighten awareness of injustice against Native Americans, her pioneering activism has only recently received the attention it deserves, and in 2005, a statue of her was added to the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol.

