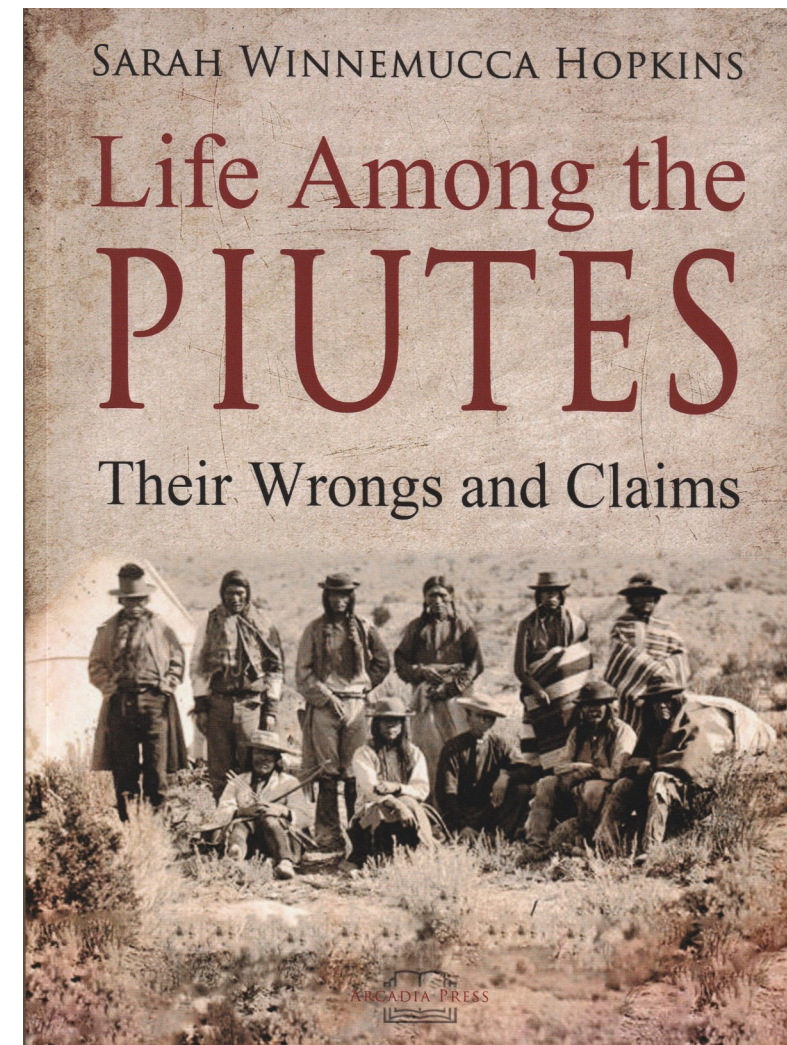


# Celebrating Women Who Shaped Our Community

**SARAH WINNEMUCCA:** We must first start with women indigenous to this land from the tribes of the Paiute. We thank and acknowledge those who were protectors and stewards of this land since the beginning of time. As an example of these strong, wise, resourceful, forgiving women we point to **Sarah Winnemucca**. In the 1800's on behalf of Native Americans she fought against injustice. Sarah was an activist, educator, and lecturer throughout the United States. She spoke English and wrote and published a book in 1883 *Life Among the Piutes*. She wrote about tribal respect and the value of women: "The women know as much as the men do and their advice is often asked. We have a Republic as well as you the council tent is our Congress and anybody can speak who has anything to say women and all... If women could go into your Congress I think justice would soon be done to the Indians. I can't tell about all Indians but I know my own people are kind to everybody that does not do them harm but they will not be imposed upon, and when



people are too bad they rise up and resist them. This seems to me all right." pg 53. This book gives a unique perspective of the Eastern Oregon area from Nevada to Vale to Burns and throughout the region. Sarah's life was dedicated to fighting the injustice shown to Native Americans. Some historians called her a Pauite princess or Revolutionary Native American Activist, but after reading her book you may find she was a strong, wise, resourceful, forgiving woman who was forced into action by the dire circumstances of her people and duty to promote understanding across cultures. She used her voice to create change. There are many great videos and discussions of her at [nevadawomen.org](http://nevadawomen.org). You can find this book by Sara Winnemucca Hopkins at the Ontario Library.



Photo credit:  
Sarah Winnemucca, c. 1844 -  
16 Oct 1891 National Portrait  
Gallery, Smithsonian  
Institution

We celebrate the **ISSEI OR FIRST-GENERATION JAPANESE AMERICAN PIONEERS** as an example of strong, wise, resourceful, forgiving women. February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which set into motion the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Among the 120,000 people of Japanese heritage taken from their coastal homes, businesses, and families and placed in inland internment camps within this community we honor those women who stayed. The words of a Sansei or third-generation Japanese American and a community leader in her own right Cathy Yasuda: " I cannot begin to tell you the significance and importance your lives have made on your families



Photo credit:  
Japanese Nyssa Oregon, FSA  
photo by Russell Lee 1942



and your communities. You have been American pioneers in your own time. You arrived here to find your own way down the rough road to success and acceptance. You have had to struggle against racism, discrimination, and exclusion, making this your place. But, against all odds, you have made this community your home. You have purchased land, homes, and businesses, you have raised your family and you continue to support and contribute to the community through a variety of ways. Because of your efforts, the local area has been the center of cultural, religious, and business activity for the Japanese American community in the region. You have rightfully earned the respect and admiration of your colleagues, your neighbors,

**MARY "SUSIE" JENSEN:** We celebrate the pioneer women who walked here on the Oregon Trail. As an example of these strong, wise, resourceful, forgiving women we point to Mary "Susie" Jensen. She walked here with her grandparents the Boston family and her parents the Paddock family and all their 13 children. There were 100 people



Photo credit:  
Patty & Rex Maag

on the wagon train which left Missouri destined for the Vale area. In 1884 Susie was just 7 years old when she came to Vale. Susie's pregnant mother Katty gave birth just 2 months after walking the Oregon Trail and arriving in Vale. Susie applied for land ownership in 1909. The Annual Pioneer Picnic was held every summer since 1914. Susie never missed it. At the 78th Annual Picnic in Vale, she was honored for attending the most. Susie died in 1965. Local relative Rex Magg donated some of her encyclopedias and Shakespeare books. They are located in the Special Collection room of the Vale Hotel.



Mary Susan Jensen Family  
"Susie", and Rex

and friends. As for myself, you have instilled in me a pride for my Japanese American ancestry, whose heritage, I believe, can be characterized by courage, patience, and the will to prevail. You have shown me by example the importance of hard work, good citizenship, determination, and the importance of preserving my cultural heritage and values. What wonderful role models you have been, you have shown us how to love and care for family and friends, how to work hard, and be a good parent. I will be forever grateful to the generations of Nisei and Issei who came before me, who endured, sacrificed, and worked endlessly for their family, friends, and community without complaints, hard feelings, or regret." As stated in Four Rivers Cultural Center 25-year celebration speech held in 2022.



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