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Slough-Keetcha: Spokane Garry in History and Memory

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Spokane Indian tribal leader Spokane Garry was an important cultural mediator during the years that the tribe first experienced sustained interactions with non-Indians. He died in poverty and relative obscurity in 1892, having seen his people dispossessed and displaced to a reservation. After his death, non-Indians appropriated Garry’s life and legacy to justify conquest and to promote the city of Spokane as a regional hub and tourist destination. This article explores Garry’s life in both history and memory. It concludes with an account of contemporary collaborations between the Spokane Tribe and city officials which allowed the tribe to reclaim Garry’s legacy and rediscover his Salish name: Slough-Keetcha. This article was awarded the Charles Gates Award for 2013-14 which recognizes the most significant achievement among all articles published in Pacific Northwest Quarterly during the year.