Lushootseed Name(s): Wha-cah-dub, Whay-kay-dub, Whea-Kadim Shelton, and others

English Name(s): William Shelton

Birth/Death: July 4, 1868 - February 11, 1938

- Wha-cah-dub (William Shelton) was trained to be a spiritual leader (shaman) instructed in tribal customs, stories, and traditions. Born at the permanent Snohomish village of TSEHT-skluhks at Sandy Point, he is often referred to as the last known hereditary leader of the Snohomish People. At the age of 18, he ran away from home to learn the language and ways of the white man, enrolling at the Tulalip Mission School on the

Tulalip Reservation located on Tulalip Bay which opened in 1905.

- As an adult, while raising a family, William labored at the Tulalip reservation wearing many hats. His daily schedule was cluttered with construction projects, transporting school age children from other tribes back and forth by boat to the reservation school, working at the sawmill, and doing the bidding of the reservation Superintendent and his wife. In his role as Police Chief of the reservation, he monitored the administration of legal punishments that were handed out to his family, friends and acquaintances – many triggered by an addiction to alcohol.

- By 1912, at the age of 44, William realized that the ancestral customs and traditions of his people were rapidly fading - replaced by industry and the

degradation of natural resources. He began to emerge as a leader and spokesperson for his people, advocating for kinder treatment and recognition of their culture. He began to carve story poles and totems which told the spiritual stories of his people.

- William began to wear colorful and elaborate adornments of the Plains Indians and other tribes to capture the attention of the "others" (white colonist settlers) who now dominated the landscape. He would emerge as a renowned carver, but more importantly as the voice for many Indigenous people who were becoming invisible – dominated by the prejudiced and greedy pace of progress.